

## Today's challenge from Sam Hale



### Someone Special

For this week's Still Lively task I would like you to make a drawing of someone special or someone who is important to you.

Think carefully about your choice of materials and the size of the work.

Are you going to work from a photograph or from memory? Could you try both approaches?

Could you add significant objects to the drawing which tell us more about the sitter?  
Is the setting important?

What is the title of your drawing? If you change the title does it change the way we view the work?

Will you share the work with your special person?

You might want to spend some time looking at other artists' work as inspiration.  
Here are some ideas to get you started.

Mary Cassatt was an American painter and printmaker. She was born in Allegheny City, Pennsylvania, but lived much of her adult life in France, where she befriended Edgar Degas and exhibited with the Impressionists. Cassatt often created images of the social and private lives of women, with particular emphasis on the intimate bonds between mothers and children.

<https://www.marycassatt.org/>

Aliza Nisenbaum (b.1977, Mexico) is a New York-based painter best known for her bright, large-scale portraits of community groups. Inspired by the dedication of Liverpool's key workers, the artist has created a series of new paintings of NHS staff from Merseyside, who have worked tirelessly for their community during the pandemic.

<https://www.tate.org.uk/whats-on/tate-liverpool/exhibition/aliza-nisenbaum>

You might also be interested in the work of photographer Sunil Gupta:

<https://www.tate.org.uk/art/artists/sunil-gupta-4953>

Mark Gertler *Jewish Family* 1913

Gertler often took his subjects from the Jewish community in Whitechapel, where he had grown-up. Here he portrays a Jewish family, using simplified forms and consciously archaic figure types. He was inspired by folk art and early Italian painting, sources which were influential among the Bloomsbury artists with whom he was associated. Gertler's mother regularly modelled for him and his depictions of her reveal a complex interplay between Jewish identity and artistic influences. This picture shows her as a peasant wearing a headscarf, although she had appeared in earlier portraits as a smartly dressed Edwardian matron.

<https://www.tate.org.uk/art/artworks/gertler-jewish-family-n06231>

Contemporary painter Chantal Joffe makes her family her prime subject. Her portraits explore how familial relationships develop throughout the stages of life. Joffe focuses on women and children in particular, and often depicts herself with her young daughter Esme. Esme features frequently in her paintings; Joffe began chronicling their relationship from her pregnancy onwards.

<https://www.royalacademy.org.uk/art-artists/name/chantal-joffe-ra>

This work also explores family relationships and maternal bonds. Two figures, a mother and child, are dressed in mourning clothes. They stand by a group of bee hives, amid a rural scene. Leaves are beginning to turn golden and plumes of smoke rise towards a grey autumnal sky. The picture evokes the tradition of informing bees when a family member has died; a practice inspired by the ancient belief that the souls of the departed would return to earth as bees.



*Telling the Bees*

Charles Napier Hemy (1841 - 1917)

Oil on canvas

c. 1850 - 1900

Wolverhampton Arts and Museums

Please click on this link for more details about Still Lively:

<https://www.creativehealthcic.co.uk/older-people/>