

# MUSEUMS AND SCHOOLS PROGRAMME

## CUT & PASTE SHADOW PROFILES

### SIL-oo-ET

*A silhouette is the image of a person...represented as a solid shape of a single colour, usually black, with its edges matching the outline of the subject...*

Wikipedia

Originally known as *shades* or *profiles*, then later *silhouettes*, a typical cut and paste shadow profile was drawn onto and cut out of black card then pasted on to a light paper. This technique provided cheap miniature portraits to people prior to affordable photography.

Some artisans could create silhouettes in only a few minutes, free-cutting likenesses or using special machines like Hawkins 'physiognotrace' to aid them.

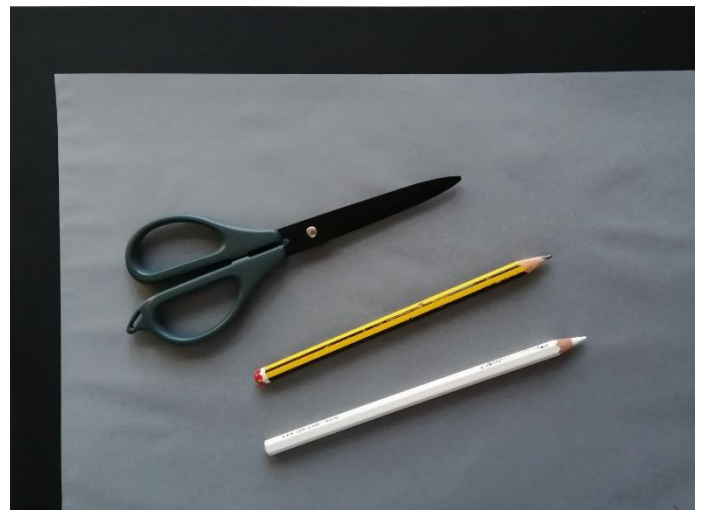
The term Silhouette is linked to the French finance minister **Etienne De Silhouette** who made unpopular economic demands (tax rises and funding cuts!) in 1759. His name then became synonymous with anything done or made cheaply, such as paper cuts opposed to painted miniature portraits.

This activity explores is inspired by artisans such as **August Eduart** of the US, and Isle of Wight born **John Buncombe's** ink and watercolour military portraits. A number of Buncombe's sought-after works are held on the Isle of Wight in Carisbrooke Castle Museum's collection.

Use this sheet alongside the Museums & Schools Cut & Paste Shadow Profiles Pt 1 & Pt 2 videos.

### Materials

- Magazines (to cut human figures from)
- tracing paper
- black card
- scissors
- pencil + white pencil crayon
- **Optional for Pt 2** tablet / smartphone



## Instructions

### **Cut & Paste Shadow Profiles Pt 1:**

Collect and cut figures from magazines, catalogues or newspapers, especially those with heads in profile (looking to either side).

Place a piece of tracing paper over a selected image and trace the outline with a pencil.

Turn the tracing paper over and lay on top of a piece of black card.

Trace the outline again, this time applying a little extra pressure. This will push the carbon from the first drawing down onto the card, transferring a faint image.

Now draw over the transfer using a white crayon pencil. This gives a clear outline for scissor cutting. Take time and care to avoid injury and create a crisp likeness.

Flip the cut out over to hide any residual white crayon. This profile can be enhanced with white highlights and stuck onto a piece of ivory or white card / paper.

To get a period accurate look, place an oval frame mount on top.

### **Cut & Paste Shadow Profiles Pt 2:**

Collect and cut out figures from magazines, catalogues or newspapers. Cut and remove the heads. We will replace these with our own shadow profiles.

Take a side (profile image) of yourself / family member on a device with a screen. A tablet is ideal, but a smart phone will do.

With your side profile photograph visible on your device screen, offer up different figures to see what fits well together (which combination of profile photo and cut out body look good).

You can pinch zoom the profile head image on your device to get the correct scale to the body.

When you have a good match place tracing paper over your device screen and carefully follow the outline of the head using a pencil. **Do not press hard** and try to keep your fingers off the touch sensitive areas of the screen, otherwise the image may move or revert to its original size.

Now you have a scaled outline to turn into a cut and paste shadow profile (repeating Pt 1 steps)

Add the Shadow profile to your selected body to create a mash up inspired by John Buncombe



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