



EXHIBITION

ABOUT FACE portraits by JANICE RIDER

***Man is least himself when he talks in his own person
Give him a mask and he will tell you the truth***

Oscar Wilde (1854-1900)

The current craze for colour therapy books was brought to my notice by a gift from my niece, of the geometric Penrose Tiling pattern book created by the renowned mathematician Sir Roger Penrose. Averse to anything remotely mathematical, I was curiously attracted to these blank patterns so closely reminiscent of the intricate geometrics of Islamic Art. So I set myself the challenge of evoking a portrait from within the 8 different patterned pages in the book. The resulting images surprised me. Intuitively, within the boundaries of the given pattern formations, faces appeared,

displaying elements of performance masks from bygone civilizations, referencing tribal and totemic patterns and reflecting my ongoing interest in cultural difference and similarity. Each portrait is unique and hand coloured using Ink Intense and water soluble pencils.

Portraiture has always been an abiding passion for me. As a professional costume designer for film and television, I have spent the last 40 years looking at and working with actors' faces/expressions, interpreting, creating and enhancing characters through drawing and clothing. As an artist my practice diversifies between painting, drawing, mixed-media collage, installation and sculpture but portraiture is always at its core.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Janice Rider was born in Birmingham and attended King Edward VI Camphill School for Girls. She has exhibited widely in the UK in selected group and solo shows since the early 1980s when she studied under the American artist Jack Rutherford in Spain <http://jackrutherford-artist.com>. She holds BA Hons degrees in Drama/Latin /Greek from the University of Bristol; Fine Art from the University of Coventry and PG Cert Fine Art from Birmingham City University. She worked as a costume designer at the BBC for 12 years before going freelance in 1989 and continues to design productions - her most recent being Ragdoll Productions' *Twirlywoos* and Electricflix films *Monochrome* and *Amaryllis*. Her early creative development was encouraged at The Midlands Arts Centre for Young People (now mac) where she took part in productions directed by their (and Highbury Little Theatre) founder John English. Janice is experienced in delivering artist-led workshops in museums/schools/community settings and is open to commissions. She is recipient of Arts Council awards for residencies in UK and Egypt and a Royal Television Society nomination for Best Costume for *Macbeth on the Estate*.

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