

RICHARD AVEDON PEOPLE

National Portrait Gallery
Learning resource

About the exhibition

American photographer Richard Avedon produced portrait photographs that defined the twentieth century. The exhibition *Richard Avedon People* explores his photographic practice and includes iconic portraits from the Richard Avedon Foundation collection. Avedon's work as a fashion photographer was ground breaking for its flair and dynamism. He also photographed cultural and political figures who strongly influenced life and society in the twentieth century and he created inspiring photographic portraits of performers, artists, writers and countercultural leaders. Avedon was also committed to the freedom of the individual in society and he produced captivating photographs of people on the streets of New York in the late 1940s, at Santa Monica Beach in the 1960s, and across the American West. By embracing the differences that make us who we are, Avedon's portraits are compelling for the time in which they were made, and for our own time. All photographic prints in the exhibition are gelatin silver prints produced by Richard Avedon and his studio during his lifetime.

Curated by the National Portrait Gallery's Senior Curator, Dr Christopher Chapman in partnership with the Richard Avedon Foundation, New York, *Richard Avedon People* is the first Australian exhibition of Avedon's work. The Foundation was established by Avedon in his lifetime and encourages the study and appreciation of Avedon's photography through exhibitions, publications and outreach programs.

About the resource

The learning resource is a companion to the exhibition *Richard Avedon People* and includes photographic portraits from each decade of Avedon's career and demonstrates his personal aesthetic, signature style and lifelong experimentation.

The resource has connections with the Australian Curriculum and is designed primarily for upper secondary school teachers of Visual Arts, English, History and Theory of Knowledge to enrich understanding of Avedon's photographic portraits and the life and times of the subjects portrayed.

The resource is divided into four curriculum areas with portraits of particular relevance as focus for discussion and research before, during and after the visit to the exhibition at the Gallery or online.

Curriculum links include:

Visual Arts

- Portraits as narrative
- Avedon's photographic practice and innovations
- Avedon and different genres of photography
- Curating a photographic exhibition

English

- Contesting the American dream
- Twentieth century American literature
- The photographic essay

Modern History

- The civil rights movement
- The Cold War/The Vietnam War

Theory of Knowledge

- Ethics
- Aesthetics

National Portrait Gallery

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Learning resources

Learning resources can be downloaded at portrait.gov.au/educationdownloads

Tell us what you think

The National Portrait Gallery is committed to providing opportunities for all audiences to access exhibitions and the Collection. We welcome any comments or suggestions about this learning resource. Please contact Amanda Andlee Poland, Manager, Learning Programs amanda.poland@npg.gov.au 02 6102 7062.

NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY EXHIBITION

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