

Barkley L. Hendricks  
Anthony Osman

Out of the paintings that you produced I have picked Barkley L. Hendricks to look up. I was drawn to the image because of the "S" on the top. Yes, I still like all my superhero stuff, I don't tend to go for the cinema outings. I mainly stick to reading the comics. Superman can be an interesting character, a subversion of the Ubermensch written by two young Jewish men. Stolen from them with bureaucracy and capitalism. An intellectual property that starts as a bully, becomes a social justice warrior, collaboration of new ideas shift him further from his origin and is constantly morphed again and again to reflect the times. A shorthand for a symbol for good within pop culture.

Anyhow enough about Superman I am here to look up Barkley L. Hendricks, and that is just what I will do. I will construct this email as I begin looking the person up this Sunday afternoon.

My first port of call before Google was to look in THE ART BOOK, I am certain you know the one I think every art student must off thumbed through a copy in the reference section in their time at college.

Now over to Google, first it tells me that the man is from over the pond. Then of course top result is the Wikipedia page. Two avenues to go down right away. First, filtering for an image search and second is a Tate gallery and museum web page.

The image search: the dude looks like one cool cat. Flat colours used and middling or full body portraits, I am currently assuming work four foot or even bigger in diameter. The paint seems quite thin for some of the portraits so maybe trying to make supplies last or as it is upon the clothing and some backgrounds mostly just a shorthand for the texture of the fabric. I am reminded of the work of (oh bugger I forgot his name) he uses an electronic wheel chair now to get around by it is the full body of work he did when more physically able when he was younger, though the paints made of dots were more photorealistic.

What does the Tate have to say? Okay, so a short blurb says he's a Black American painter using cross-media but known for his portraits. Their video though was more interesting, yes it is only a snippet and yes it is edited, but they are his own words speaking upon himself. So that I think brings me round to my next stage. I am going to set the video here on a loop and make a sketch of the fellow. That of course will be my last attachment in the electronic mail to you. I found some paper with a pink hue, made my initial sketch with a HB pencil the grabbed an old pencil case of colouring pencils to finish up and render some more.



Barkley L. Hendricks is an artist that was based in America but did travel about different continents. After seeing students doing copies of masters' work at the National Gallery, he sought out to try it himself, but had the epiphany to not copy but to paint his own work as awe inspiring. Using photography and painting to bring his portraits as present to the audience real and life-sized. Hendricks explore the Black American for who they who he is and not going back to African roots but speaking for himself and exploring his community around him. Using his camera as his "mechanical

sketch book" as he calls it is interesting as tool for looking and reference as an instant image maker to work from. Not bothered or shying from nudity when looking at others and himself leading through a confidence that carried through himself and the work he created, being open and honest and laying it all out to be seen by others.

Anthony Richard Osman is an artist based in Lincoln. Winner of the North Hertfordshire College The Vision Awards 2005, he primarily works in drawing but does experiment with photography and painting. Anthony looks inward to use his creative skills to tell stories or reflect with self portraiture. A new spark of interest has returned Anthony to develop new ideas and learn to make again.