

## Self-ish Portrait (Camille Claudel)

by Isla Downie

Upon first encountering Andrew's collection, I was struck by the distinctiveness and variety of each piece. One particular artwork captivated my attention with its clever utilization of negative space and vibrant colour palette. The deliberate lack of detail, apart from the eye and mouth, makes these as the central focal point, complemented by the bold hues creating the hat. While initially unfamiliar with the artist's inspiration, further researching revealed her impressive sculptures, such as 'The Waltz' and 'The Wave'.

Camille Claudel, a French sculptor born in 1864 and passing away in 1943, initially studied under Alfred Boucher before becoming a student and collaborator of Auguste Rodin, with whom she also developed a romantic relationship. Despite her artistic achievements, Claudel faced significant mental health challenges that eventually led to her being in a psychiatric institution during her later years. Prior to this, she produced remarkable sculptures, often including human figures, that had a sense of depth and complexity to them, and each told their own story. Today, her work is receiving the recognition it deserves, with Claudel being acknowledged for her significant contributions to the field of sculpture and her pieces being increasingly appreciated and studied.

When comparing Andrew's painting to the original piece that inspired him, it's clear that he has enhanced the visual impact by using vibrant colours, especially the striking yellow from the original artwork. Both artists exhibit a preference for bold colours and minimal detail, yet Andrew's interpretation stands out with sharper shapes that do not blend together. This unique style showcases Andrew's deliberate arrangement of shapes to present images in a fresh and creative way.

Isla Downie is a first-year student at Lincoln University, where she is studying Fine Art and Improving her skills as an artist.

[Artsper | Buy Original Art Online - Artworks: Paintings, Photos and More. \(n.d.\). Camille Claudel by Carmen Selma, 2018 | Painting | Artsper. \[online\] Available at: <https://www.artsper.com/us/contemporary-artworks/painting/468445/camille-claudel> \[Accessed cvaneastmidlands.co.uk. \(n.d.\). Andrew Bracey. \[online\] Available at: <https://cvaneastmidlands.co.uk/andrew-bracey/> \[Accessed 22 Feb. 2024\].](#)

[NMWA. \(n.d.\). Camille Claudel | Artist Profile. \[online\] Available at: <https://nmwa.org/art/artists/camille-claudel/> \[Accessed 22 Feb. 2024\].](#)

[www.musee-rodin.fr. \(n.d.\). Camille Claudel | Musée Rodin. \[online\] Available at: <https://www.musee-rodin.fr/en/resources/rodin-and-artists/camille-claudel> \[Accessed 22 Feb. 2024\].](#)