

CREATE A SELF PORTRAIT & LEARN TO SPELL YOUR NAME IN AUSLAN



LISMORE
REGIONAL
GALLERY



Australian artist Angie Goto has created a series of self portraits, as part of her work in the *Face Me : The Art of Deafhood* exhibition at Lismore Regional Gallery, curated by Northern Rivers based artist and curator Sigrid Macdonald.

Angie's artworks explore her experiences as a Deaf person. Many of her paintings include hands moving and communicating with Auslan (Australian Sign Language), as well as letters from the English language. Angie learnt Auslan as an adult and she uses both Auslan and English to communicate. Her painting *My Eyes Are Listening*, represents her experiences with these two different worlds and languages.

"This artwork is truly about the internal struggle being a Deaf person within a world full of people who can hear. I feel as if I live in two very different worlds - the hearing world and the Deaf world. I tried to represent Auslan with the brighter colours in this piece, however the jumbled letters and words do show my struggle to learn a whole new language in Auslan, sometimes my signs are muddled up and confused, or I misunderstand as I am still learning."

Angie Goto

Image: Angie Goto, *My Eyes Are Listening*, (detail), acrylic, wax pencil, oil pastel, charcoal, 2021



CREATE A SELF PORTRAIT & LEARN THE AUSLAN ALPHABET

AN ACTIVITY FOR KIDS' & THEIR FAMILIES TO DO TOGETHER

MATERIALS YOU'LL NEED

- A piece of paper (whatever size you like or have at home). Or print the frame page included with this activity on page 5.
- Access to the internet to watch the Auslan Fingerspelling Alphabet video, to learn how to finger spell your name in Auslan.
- A print out of the Auslan Fingerspelling Alphabet below and on page 4.
- To create your self portrait you could use a variety of materials such as: pencils, pens, crayons, marker pens, oil or chalk pastels, or whatever art materials you can find around home or in the classroom.
 - *Angie Goto used a number of different materials to create her self portrait, such as: acrylic paint, wax pencil, oil pastel and charcoal
- Scissors and glue.
- A mirror, or a photo of yourself and your imagination.

LEARNING THE AUSLAN ALPHABET:

Look below at the Auslan Fingerspelling Alphabet and watch the video 'Fingerspelling A-Z Auslan' to learn how to sign your name in Auslan and practice Auslan fingerspelling.

Watch here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rVIKfQIRAdS>





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WHAT TO DO

CREATING A SELF PORTRAIT:

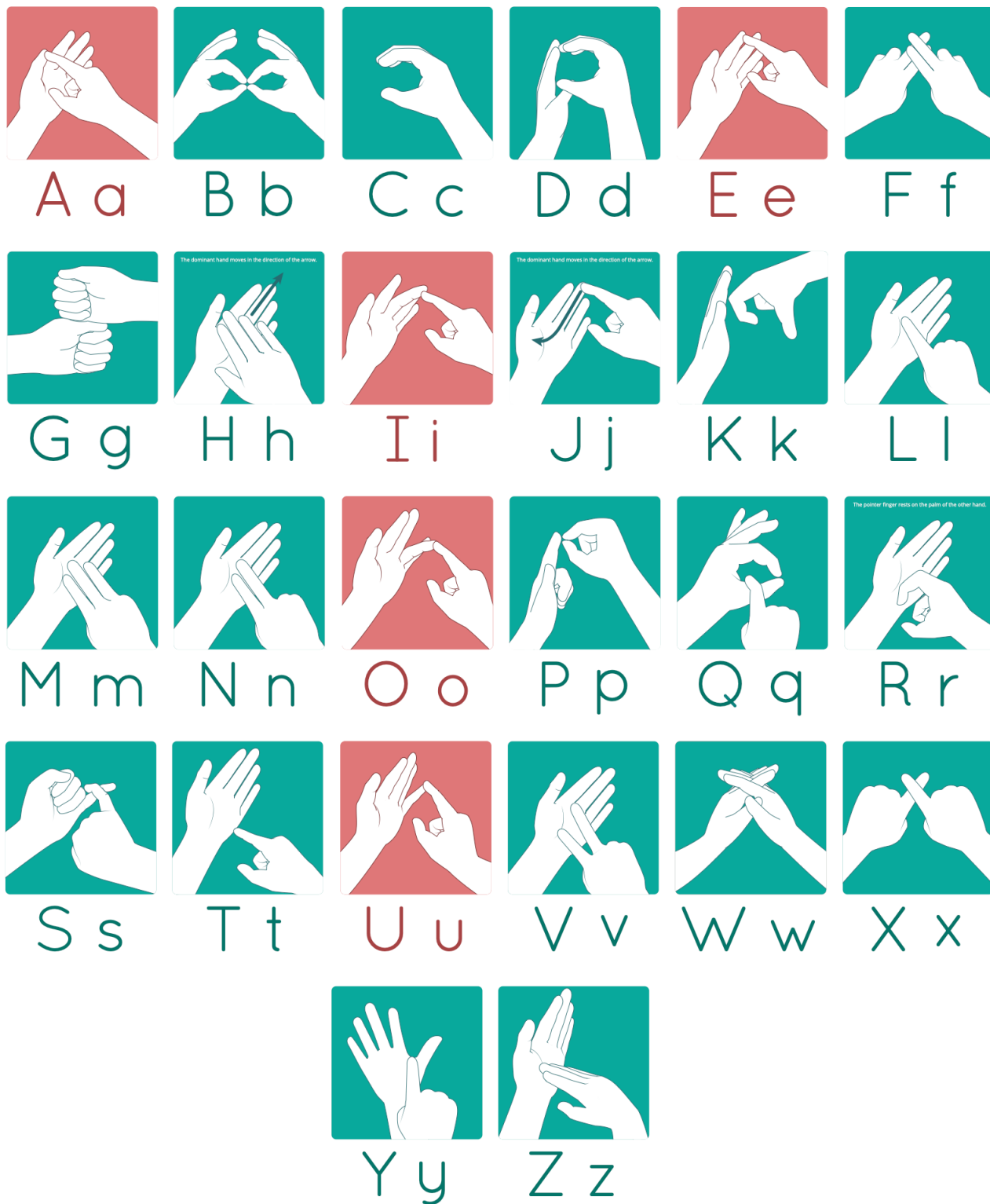
- Before you start your self portrait, think about the things that are important in your life. You could also think about things that are important to your family. For example: What language do you and your family use at home?

What is your family's cultural background? Are there things that your family or friends do together, that are an important part of your cultural traditions or celebrations? Or what are your favourite colours, animals or places to be?

*Just like Angie Goto has included her cultural language of Auslan in her self portrait, you may want to include some of your family or community's culture in your self portrait too.

- Find or take a photo of yourself or look in the mirror or draw a portrait of yourself from your imagination on your paper, using the art materials you have chosen.
- Remember to look at or think about the features of your face, such as your eyes, ears, nose, mouth, chin, etc. The clothes and colours you are wearing and the emotions you want to represent, such as happy, sad, laughing, tired or cheeky etc.
- Use your favourite colours or symbols in your self portrait and explore a part of your life that is important to you.
- Now look at the Auslan Fingerspelling Alphabet and find the letters and fingerspelling that spell out your name. Cut out these out and glue them onto your self portrait. (You may need to print out a few copies in case use have repeated letters in your name, or you could try to draw the fingerspelling shapes into your portrait).

= Auslan Alphabet =

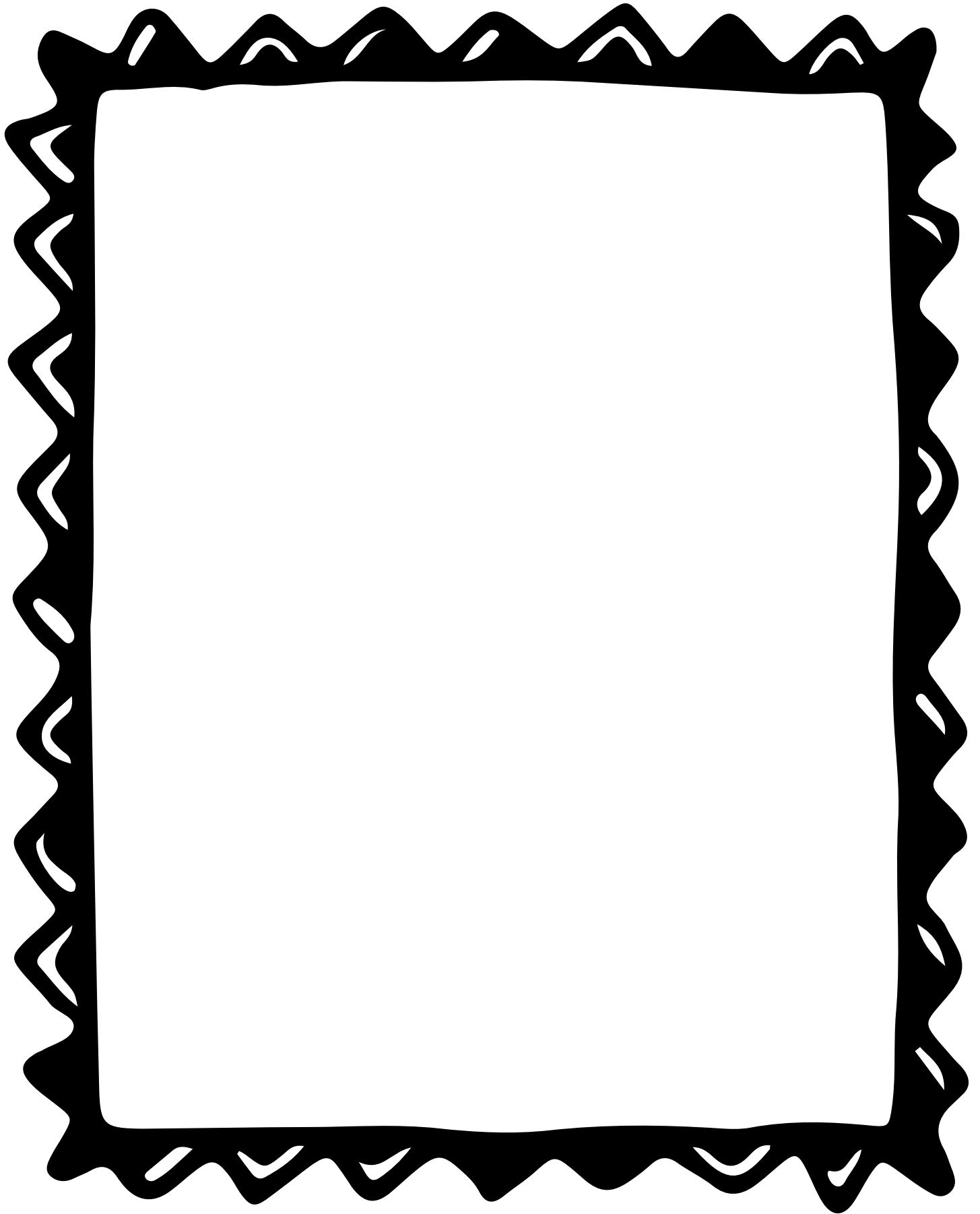


teachstarter

Image: Auslan Fingerspelling Alphabet, Sourced from Teach Starter:
<https://www.teachstarter.com/au/teaching-resource/auslan-fingerspelling-alphabet-poster/?plancode=free>

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