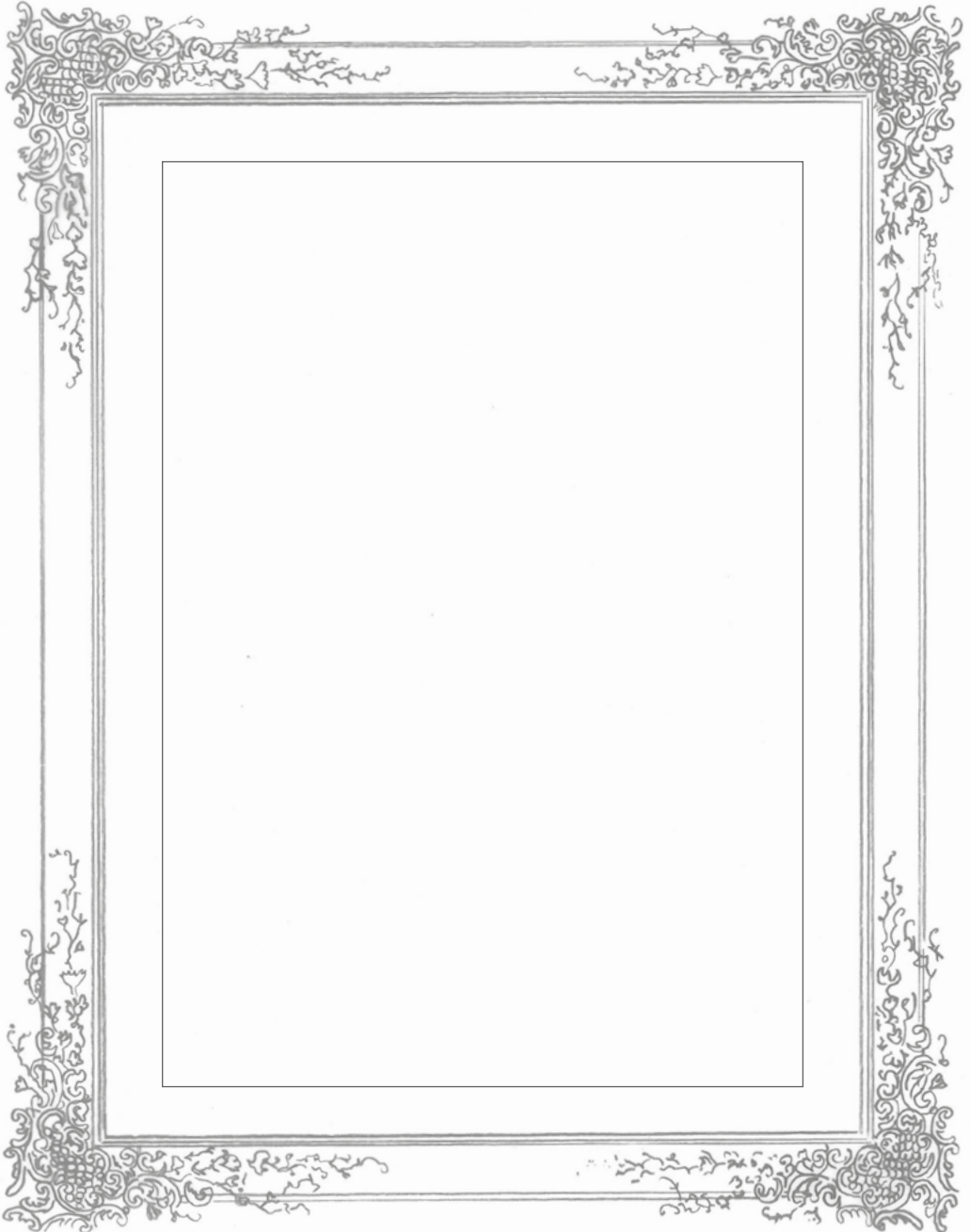


LOOK AT ME!



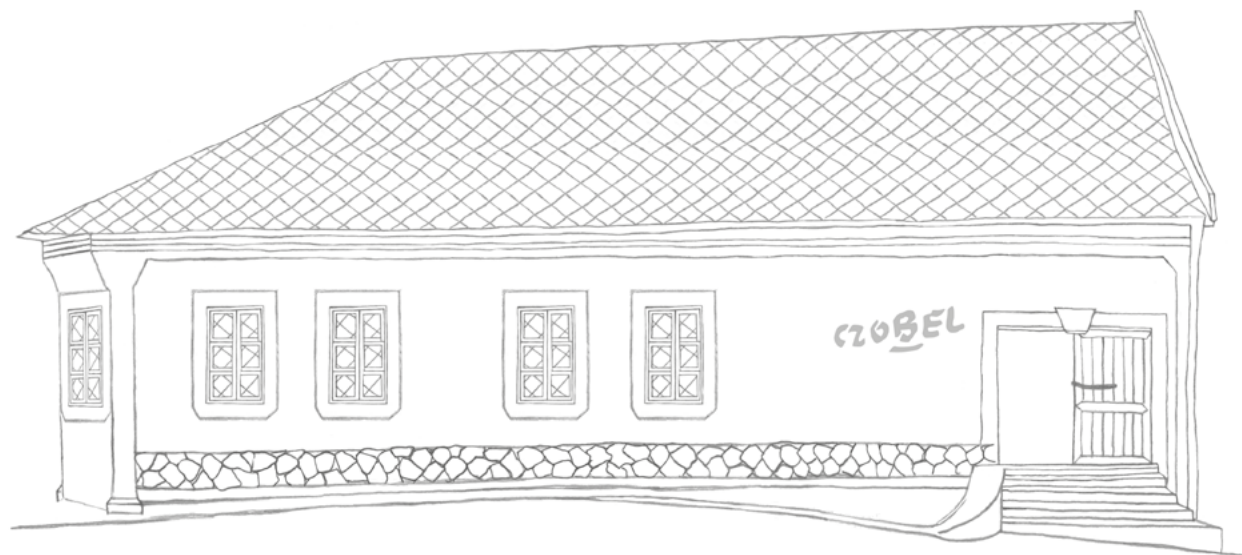
THE ART OF BÉLA CZÓBEL'S PORTRAITS

WHO IS IN THE MIRROR?





The Béla Czóbel Museum, which is part of the Ferenczy Museum Center, was opened on Church Hill in Béla Czóbel's lifetime, in 1975. The building has since been fully renovated, and the museum's permanent exhibition is renewed every year.



In this BOOKLET, Béla Czóbel's portraits are in focus: you will see portraits and self-portraits painted in his different artistic periods. We also included some paintings by his contemporaries, and selected several photos of Czóbel.

Join us, and become a member on our editorial team: write, draw and colour in the booklet, make it a special edition which reflects YOU.

If a piece of art becomes part of a public collection, it is stored and protected in a museum and put on display on occasion. At museum exhibitions, art pieces owned by private collectors are also shown. In order to keep his major works together in the museum dedicated to him, Béla Czóbel decided to buy back some paintings sold to private collectors in Paris. When Czóbel died, his entire estate was donated to the museum by his daughter, Lisa Czóbel and his art collector friends.



The focal point of this interior is a comfy blue armchair with a yellow pillow. Apart from the armchair, there are several objects in the room which describe the owner's personality. The orange wardrobe with glass doors on the left, the bottle (or vase?) on the table, the purple and orange chequered carpet on the bright yellow floor and the huge window on the right make this room look cheerful. You can see the back of a painting behind the armchair. Can you guess what it shows?

WHOSE ROOM IS IT?



Mária Modok: *Interior in Rue Vital*, 1955-1959, FMC

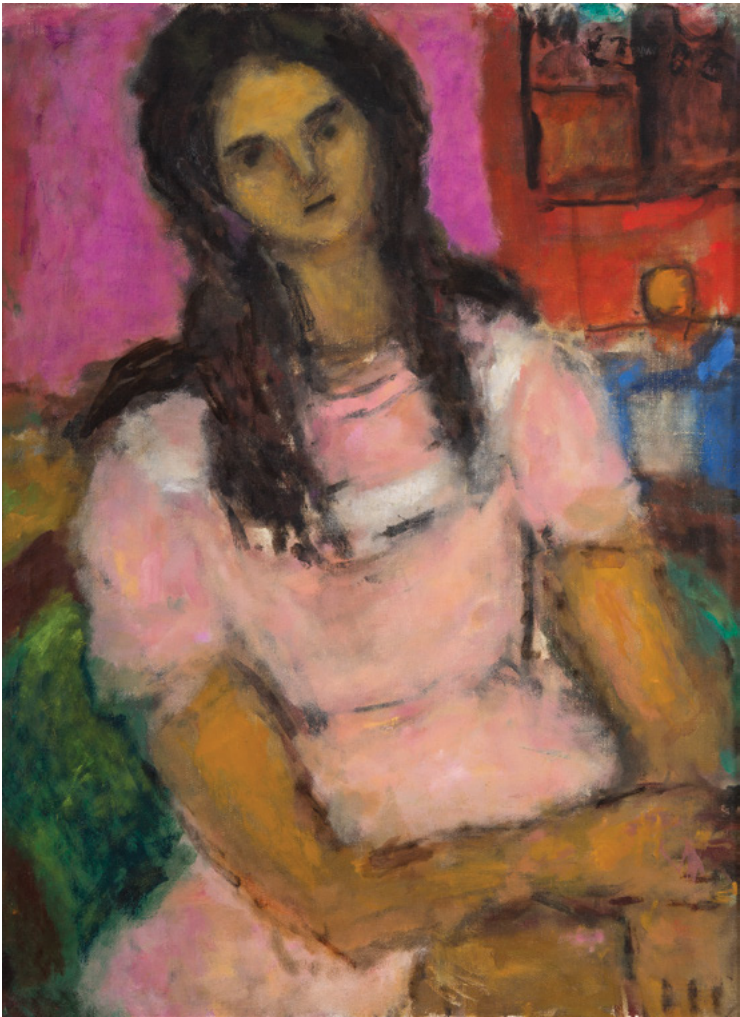
(Interior: the inside of a room or a building.)

The painter Mária Modok was married to Béla Czóbel, and the depicted room was part of their flat in Paris where they spent wintertime every year.

Move into this room. What would it look like if it were yours? What colour would the walls be? What furniture would you have? Do you have some favourite objects? Draw them, and colour your imaginary room.



WHO IS SHE?



The painting at a Czóbel exhibition in Galerie Drouet in 1972

Béla Czóbel: Girl in Pink, 1970, FMC

In portraits we often see people who are unknown to us. But a good portrait painting always gives you clues about who the sitter might be.
(Sitter: a person who sits for a portrait.)

Look at the girl, what comes to mind?

How old is she? What's her job?

Where does she live? Who does she live with?

.....

Imagine her room, and write a short description about it in a few sentences.

.....

.....

.....

PORTRAITS

Béla Czóbel painted this self-portrait in 1902. His fellow artist, Károly Kernstok painted the portrait of Béla Czóbel in 1907. Károly Kernstok painted his self-portrait in 1910.

Who was whose sitter? Who was a sitter twice, and who painted a portrait twice?



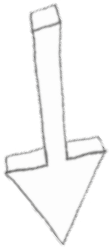
Béla Czóbel: Self-portrait, 1902, FMC



Károly Kernstok: Portrait of Béla Czóbel 1907, Hungarian National Gallery © Museum of Fine Arts, Budapest, 2022



Károly Kernstok: Self-portrait in White Hat ca. 1900, Hungarian National Gallery © Museum of Fine Arts, Budapest, 2022



What do these paintings have in common?

.....

.....

Czóbel represented himself wearing a hat and holding a palette. If you see a person holding a palette in a self-portrait, you can be sure that the depicted person is a painter. The palette is the trademark of painters.

Can you name some other objects that symbolise painters and their work?

.....

.....

Painters can represent themselves in self-portraits the way they want to, taking on roles they like. Do you think it is true for photos as well?

.....

In 1907, Károly Kernstok invited Béla Czóbel to his mansion in Nyergesújfalu, and the two artists painted together. Czóbel spent the summer there, and then, in 1913 he visited his friend again.

.....

FASHIONABLE HATS

Hats have been worn for centuries, nowadays they are a formal wear accessory. In these pictures...



.....

..... pcs



.....

..... pcs



.....

..... pcs



.....

..... pcs

A **BERET** is never out of style. Artists, such as Cezanne, Monet, Picasso, Czóbel, Rippl-Rónai and many others loved wearing and painting the beret.

The **BOWLER HAT** was made famous by Charlie Chaplin whose character 'The Tramp' wears a bowler hat and carries a cane.

STRAW HATS are worn and still in fashion on every continent where people want to protect their head from the sun.

The Mad Hatter character in Alice's Adventures in Wonderland by Lewis Carroll wears a **TOP HAT**. Who is wearing a top hat in this booklet?

What pieces of clothes are as fashionable today as hats used to be at the turn of the 20th century?



A Group Photo of Painters in Nagybánya, 1897, FMC

The artist colony in Nagybánya started in 1896. Károly Ferenczy, whom the Museum Centre in Szentendre was named after, was one of the founding members of the colony. Béla Czóbel first visited the colony in 1902, and he kept going back to Nagybánya to paint for four more years.

SELFIE

A camera records reality... well, not exactly! In the age of selfies posted on social media sites, everybody knows it is simply not true. If you can represent yourself in a self-portrait painting the way you want to, the same applies to a photo: it is you who decides what image to show about yourself to the world. Béla Czóbel often wears a hat in photos. If he doesn't, he most probably smokes a pipe :-)

And sometimes he happens to smoke a pipe and wear a hat at the same time.

EVERY SELFIE IS A SELF-PORTRAIT,
BUT NOT EVERY SELF-PORTRAIT IS
A SELFIE.

EVERY SELF-PORTRAIT IS NOT A
SELFIE, BUT EVERY SELFIE IS A
PHOTOGRAPH.



Have a look at these photos: same man, different pictures.

1 Czóbel seems to be a kind and reserved gentleman.

2 Czóbel looks like a man who is cool and easy-going but determined.

3 Czóbel gives the impression of a charming film star in the 1930s.

WANTED

Several of Czóbel's paintings were documented only in photos, and their whereabouts has been a mystery since they disappeared. The black and white pictures give no clue about the colours Czóbel might have used to paint them. So take a palette, use your imagination, and make this picture bright with colours again.

The colouring sheet was based on a missing Czóbel painting titled *Boy with a Dog* (1921) which used to be part of Dr Hausstein's collection in Berlin.



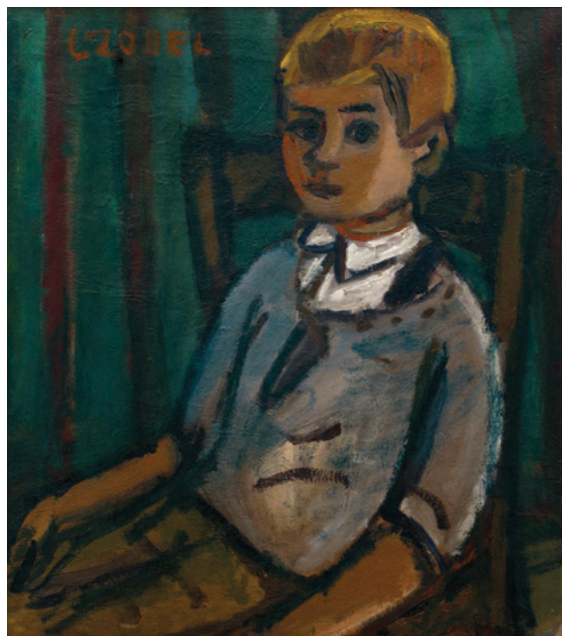
RICH OR POOR?

A portrait can tell a story about the person depicted,

and it can reveal the sitter's place in the society. What kind of family do these two boys come from? What do the details tell you about them? What do they have in common?



Béla Czóbel: *Boy (Worker Boy)*, 1917, FMC



Béla Czóbel: *Boy Sitting*, 1920, FMC

1. He's a teenager.

2. He's smiling.

3. His name is Béla.

4. He is dressed in his Sunday best.

5. He's looking at the painter (and the viewer).

6. He's sitting on a chair indoors.

7. His favourite colour is brown, and the painter used different shades of brown to express it.

8. He looks serious.

9. He has a dog.

10. He doesn't like porridge.

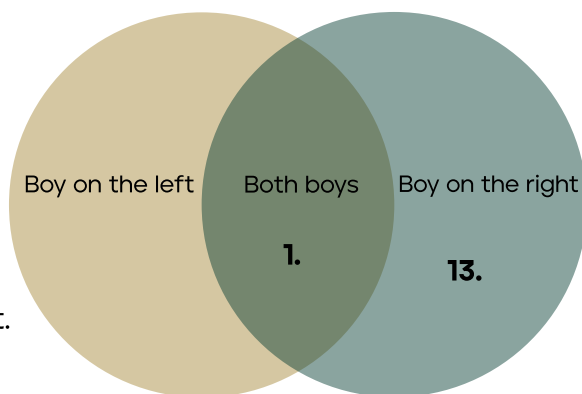
11. He looks self-confident.

12. He comes from a rich family.

13. He isn't holding his hands folded in his lap.

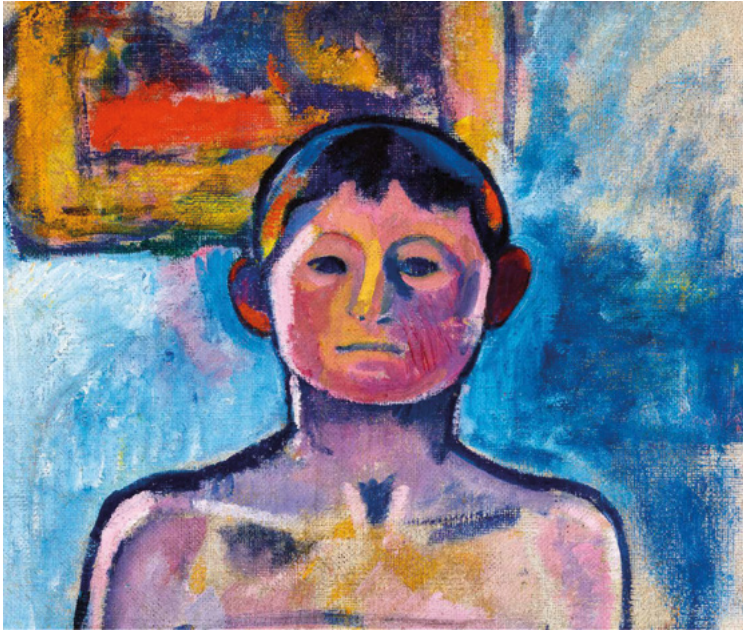
14. His jacket is too small for him, he looks a bit shabby.

15. His favourite subject is English.



FAUVIST COLOUR

Fauvism was an art movement established at the beginning of the 20th century. 'Fauve' in French means 'wild'. Fauvist painters, for example, Henri Matisse and André Derain, studied scientific colour theories, and used vibrant, non-naturalistic colours. Their paintings emphasise the expressive qualities of pure colours. The Fauves created paintings with colour contrast and thick brushstrokes, sometimes applying the paint directly from the tube onto the canvas. (Brushstroke: the way you put paint onto a surface with a paintbrush, the movements of your brush.)



Béla Czóbel: *Boy from Nyergesújfalu*, 1907, private property

What colours did Czóbel use to paint the boy? What do these bright colours express about the sitter?

.....

.....



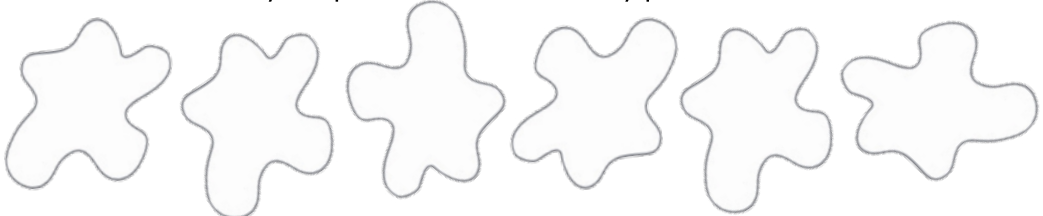
Károly Kernstok: *Colourful Portrait of a Girl* 1909, Rippl-Rónai Museum, Kaposvár

Modok and Czóbel's
dog named Tube



Mária Modok: *Dog*, 1917, FMC

What colours are in your paint tubes? Use only pure colours, don't mix them.



WHO AM I?

I meet my friends on a regular basis, and we ...

I'm not used to sitting still like this because ...

Twice a week ...

After work I usually ...

I work as a ...

Every morning I start my day ...

After sitting for this portrait in Béla's studio, I ...

In the evenings ...



Béla Czóbel: *Sitting Man II (Portrait d'homme)*, 1906
Musée des Beaux-Arts de la Rochelle, Rochelle (France)



WHO IS LOOKING?

Look into these eyes. Can you guess what creature or person these eyes belong to?



PAINTER'S CLUB

The painters in these self-portraits were well aware of their importance and artistic achievements. They gave an exaggerated representation of themselves. Match the adjectives with the relevant painting(s).

ELONGATED

SQUARED

WEIRD

LIFELIKE

REALISTIC

SERIOUS

MONUMENTAL

VICTORIOUS

ELEGANT

FRIGHTENED

MEDITATIVE

DRUNK

DISTANT

COLORFUL

SYMPATHETIC

WILD

ADVENTUROUS

EXPRESSIVE

EMOTIONAL

COLD

FUNNY

FRIGHTENING

FRIENDLY

GENTLE

PROPORTIONAL

EASY-GOING

SENSITIVE

POWERFUL

PATIENT

CONTEMPTUOUS



Lajos Tihanyi: *Self-portrait*, 1914
Hungarian National Gallery
© Museum of Fine Arts, Budapest, 2022



Róbert Berényi: *Self-portrait*, 1910
Janus Pannonius Museum, Pécs
Hungary © 2022



József Nemes-Lampérth: *Self-portrait*, 1911
Hungarian National Gallery
© Museum of Fine Arts, Budapest, 2022



Bertalan Pór: *Self-portrait*, 1910s
Hungarian National Gallery
© Museum of Fine Arts, Budapest, 2022

You can see some self-portraits painted by Czóbel's fellow artists on the previous page. They, including Béla Czóbel, belonged to the Eight, a progressive group of Hungarian painters. They were influenced by the new modern art movements in Paris. The Eight opened their first exhibition in Budapest in 1909, and their paintings were exhibited in France and the USA in the upcoming years. People reacted to their works of art either with enthusiasm or with total rejection. In general, nobody was left indifferent.



PORTRAIT POEM of Róbert Berény

I am elegant **and** talented

I wonder how to paint a self-portrait of an aristocratic and unfriendly man

I see strange-looking men who don't wear fashionable hats

I hear applause and cheering for my unusual paintings

I want to create an exceptional art piece

I am elegant **and** talented

I feel satisfied and balanced all the time

I touch a paint brush and a smartphone (is it mine?!?)

I dream about travelling this big-big world

I hope to end this poem with a positive word

I am elegant **and** talented.

Can you express yourself in words? Write a poem.

I am **and** (two adjectives)

I wonder (something you are interested in)

I see (an imaginary face)

I hear (an imaginary sound)

I want (a desire you have)

I am **and** (two adjectives)

I feel (your emotions now)

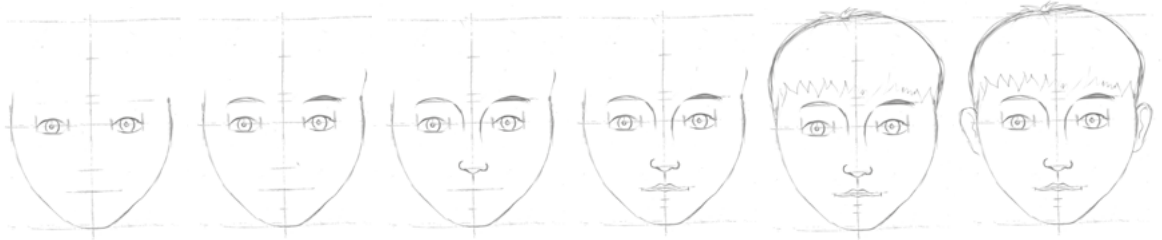
I touch (an imaginary touch)

I dream (something you dream about)

I hope (something you hope for)

I am **and** (two adjectives)

HOW TO DRAW A FACE



1. Eyes

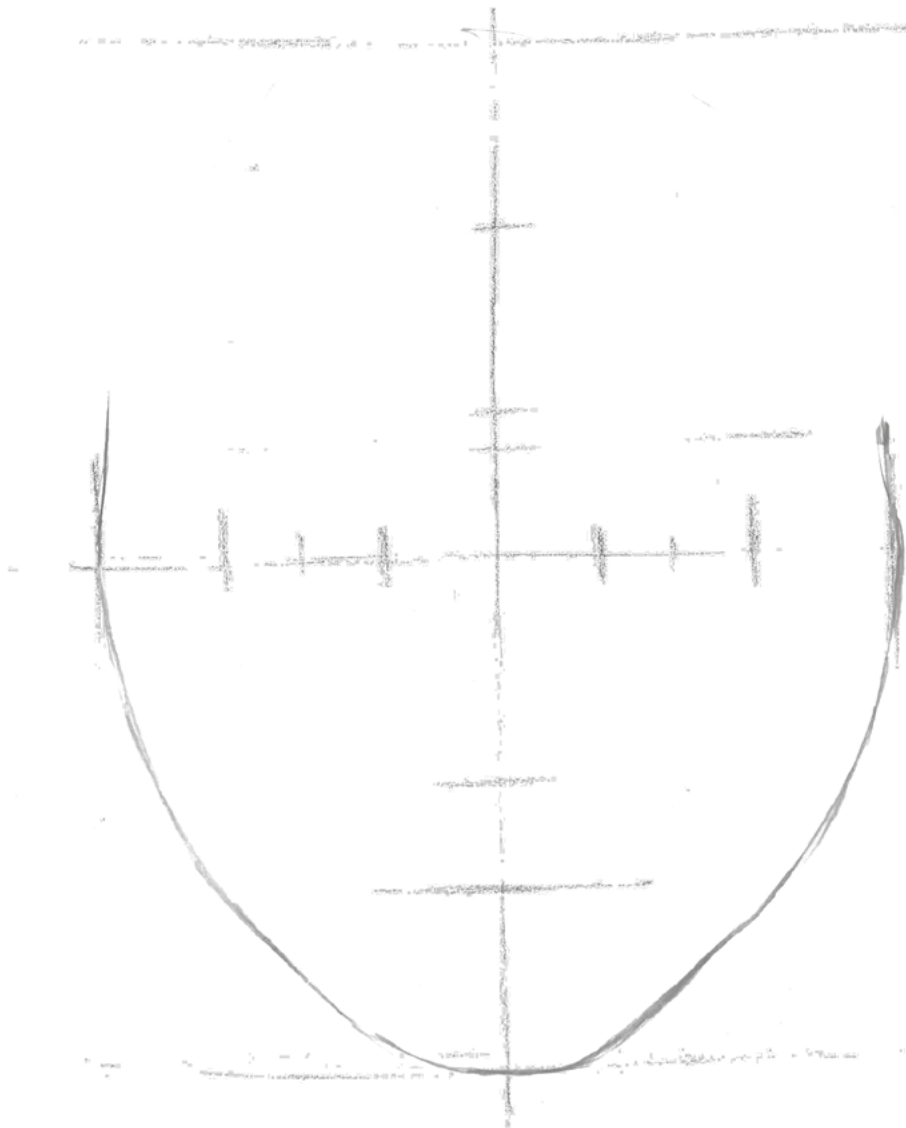
2. Eyebrows

3. Nose

4. Mouth

5. Hair

6. Ears



LIKE OR DISLIKE?

Béla Czóbel: Portrait of a Man with a Moustache, n.d., FMC



Sometimes we feel bothered by things we don't like, rather dislike, even hate.

A peeve is an annoyance, something that annoys you, irritates you, drives you crazy. A pet peeve is a kind of annoyance you like complaining about.

For example, talking during movies, dog poop on the pavement, long queues, writing tests, etc.

What are your pet peeves? List three of them.

- 1
- 2
- 3

The drawing by Czóbel resembles Rembrandt's portraits. In the picture frame from the documentary film titled *Visit to Czóbel's Studio* (1971), you can see a reproduction of a Rembrandt painting on the wall.



PAGES IN RED

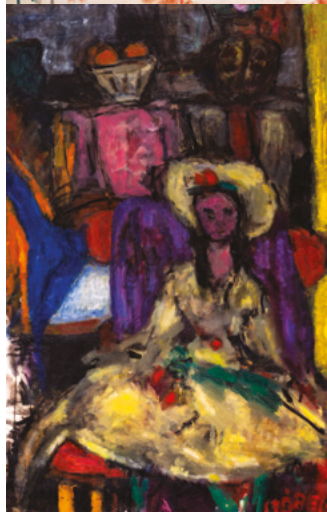
Red is a primary colour, one of the most visible ones in the colour spectrum, second only to yellow. It is the most contradictory of the colours: the colour of extremes associated with love, passion and desire as well as anger, danger and power.

Czóbel used complementary* colours in all these paintings.
True / False



In addition to the large patches of paint, you can see dark contours in each painting. T / F

Some hue of red plays an important role in the composition of these paintings. T / F



Czóbel was less interested in capturing the visual impression of his sitters than in painting their precise facial features. T / F

Béla Czóbel: *Mimi in Busby*, 1975 FMC / *Woman in Red Cap*, 1926-27, FMC
Enterieur with Puppet, 1966, FMC / *Karola in Green Hat*, 1974, FMC

RED THINGS I LIKE...

strawberry

*Complementary colours: colours opposite each other on the colour wheel, such as red and green.

Compare and contrast the following portrait paintings. Complete the sentences.
What I find similar between the two paintings is that they show

.....
.....

I can see some differences, for instance,

.....

.....



Béla Czóbel: Self-portrait, 1975, FMC



József Rippl-Rónai:
Self-portrait in a Red Cap and a Red Scarf, 1924
Hungarian National Gallery
© Museum of Fine Arts, Budapest, 2022

RED THINGS I LIKE...



COUPLE PORTRAITS

Béla Czóbel rarely painted portraits of couples. Here you can see one of them. It shows art historian Mimi Kratochwill and her husband. Look closely, what does their body language suggest about their relationship?



Béla Czóbel: Lovers (Mimi and Feri), 1975, property of Mimi Kratochwill

We looked around in our art storage rooms, and found some sketches of couples drawn by Czóbel. You can see people who are definitely related to each other and people who were chosen randomly to be captured by the artist. What do you think they are talking about? Make some mini dialogues.



Béla Czóbel: *Two Sitting Figures*, n.d., FMC

.....

.....

.....

.....



Béla Czóbel: *Two Female Figures*, n.d., FMC

.....

.....

.....

.....



Béla Czóbel: *Man with a Child*, n.d., FMC

.....

.....

.....

.....



Béla Czóbel: *Two Figures in an Interior*, n.d., FMC

.....

.....

.....

.....

WHERE SHOULD I GO?



Béla Czóbel liked to paint his female sitters in a casual body posture, feeling relaxed and opening up to the viewer. The lady lying on the sofa seems to be daydreaming. She might be dreaming about a holiday in the near future.

Béla Czóbel: *Woman in Repose*, 1919, FMC

Where would YOU like to travel? Choose a destination, and think about your dream holiday. Make some notes about it.

DESTINATION:	
TIME OF YEAR:	
LENGTH OF HOLIDAY:	
MEANS OF TRANSPORT:	
ACCOMMODATION:	
ACTIVITIES TO DO:	

Monte Carlo
Béla Czóbel
Rue Barrault

PAINTED
OCT
1915
PARIS
50

REPRODUCTION
50

ME





The colouring sheet was based on a missing Czóbel painting titled *Interior* (1923) which used to be part of Dr Hausstein's collection in Berlin.

Riddle: A man is standing in front of a portrait looking at the picture of a man's face. Looking at the man in the portrait he says: 'This man's father is my father's son!' How is the man in the portrait related to the man looking at it?*

Activity Book for Teenagers

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Curator Brigitta MULADI

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*Answer: The man in the portrait is his son. (www.riddles.com)



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