



David Morton, Dead Puppet Society. Photographer Dean Hanson.

# WHAT ARTIST AM I?

## PANEL

EXTEND THE EXPERIENCE – *THE RIDDLE OF WASHPOOL GULLY*

### BRIEFING DOCUMENT

Thursday, 19 March 2026 | 11.00am

Duration: 60 minutes

This interactive panel, moderated by **David Burton (Writer/Director)**, invites students to meet professional artists and creatives who make art for a living. The panel features:

- **David Morton:** Writer / Director / Creative Director (Dead Puppet Society)
- **Ngoc Phan:** Writer / Director / Performer
- **Aunty Sharron mirii Bell:** Wiradjuri Gamilaraay woman, Early Childhood & Cultural Educator / Performer

**Briefing for Students pre panel:** This briefing document is to provoke thinking for the panel and set up the context. Any questions, please contact [education@qpac.com.au](mailto:education@qpac.com.au).

Our panelists will share their creative journeys, career pathways, and the many different ways an artist's life can unfold.

Students will receive this worksheet before the panel to help them think, wonder, and prepare questions.

### Curriculum links:

English v9 (AC9E6LY02)

The Arts v9 – Drama, Music and Dance

## Why this activity?

All young people are artists. Some already know what they love to create, while others are still discovering it. This activity invites you to notice how creativity already lives in your life, and to imagine what kind of artist you might become.

Take time to complete this worksheet before attending the panel.

## Part 1: Art Lives Where People Live

In many cultures, art is not something separate from daily life, it is woven into living, learning, celebrating and belonging.

- **In Bali (Indonesia)**, dance, music, carving and offerings are part of everyday routines. Art is created for ceremonies, community and spiritual connection not just for stages or galleries.
- **In First Nations cultures across Australia**, art is storytelling. Song, dance, symbols and performance carry knowledge, history and care for Country across thousands of years.
- **In West African communities**, music and drumming are used to celebrate, teach and bring people together. Rhythm becomes a shared language.
- **In India**, stories are told through classical dance, colour, gesture and costume - passing history and beliefs from generation to generation.
- **In street art cultures around the world**, walls become places to speak up, protest, celebrate identity and tell stories that matter right now.

**Think about this:** - Where do you see art in everyday life? What kinds of art exist in your family, culture or community?

You don't have to go somewhere special to find art. Art is already around you in stories, music, movement, games, clothes, rituals and the way people express who they are.

## Part 2: What Art Do I Do Now?

Tick or circle the things that sound most like you or add your own.

### I create art by:

Drawing or painting

Playing an instrument

Acting in plays or rehearsals

Making videos or content for online platforms

Crocheting, sewing or making things with my hands

Dancing (in all kinds of ways)

Singing or singing in a choir

Writing stories or plays

Skateboarding to music

DJ-ing or mixing sounds

Watching people closely and noticing details

Making up jokes or comedy

Inventing characters or imaginary worlds

Working with clay, sculpture or building objects

Designing things or making kites

Loving drama, improvisation and blocking scenes

Creating video games or game stories

Creating video games or game stories

Circus skills

### Something else I do that is my art ?

### What artwork or creative activity is my favourite right now?

### Part 3: What Do I Think Art Is?

Art can mean many things. Circle the ideas you agree with or add your own.

**Art is:**

A way to express feelings

A way to speak up about things I care about

A skill people practise and grow over time

A way to make friends and connect

A way to understand the world

A way to solve problems

A way to share important stories

A way to make something beautiful

Working together to make a film, play or YouTube performance

A way to make my family proud

**My own idea about what art is:**

### Part 4 (Extension): What Do Artists Say About Art?

Many artists from different fields talk about why art matters and where ideas come from. After the panel, explore these voices or add your own.

Artists & Creators

- **G Flip** – Musician
- **Baker Boy** – Rap artist
- **Sam Campbell** – Comedian
- **Lucy Angel** – Dancer, Sydney Dance Company
- **Shigeru Miyamoto** – Game designer
- **Jonathan Blow** – Game designer

**G Flip** describes creativity as instinctive, honest and playful: *“From as early as I can remember, I’ve loved instruments, sounds and the emotions music makes you feel.”*

One of their most shared quotes: *“Create the things you wish existed.”*

**Baker Boy (Danzal Baker)**, the Yolju rapper from Arnhem Land, describes music as healing: *“Music is the best meditjin. It brings everyone together, makes you want to dance, love, laugh and feel.”*

(\*Meditjin means “medicine” in Yolju Matha.)

**Sam Campbell**, comedian, describes creativity as constant making: *“If you’re always making things, that’s not a bad thing to be doing, especially if it spreads joy.”*

**Shigeru Miyamoto**, creator of Super Mario and The Legend of Zelda, believes: *“Players are artists who create their own reality within the game.”*

**Jonathan Blow**, creator of Braid and The Witness, says: *“Part of making things well is thinking about how every element works together to form a whole.”*

**Lucy Angel**, dancer with Sydney Dance Company, shares: *“I started dancing because movement helped me communicate. When I dance, I feel exhilarated.”*

**An artist or creator I admire and what they say about art:**

**My favourite artist is:**

## Part 5: Looking Ahead – My Future as an Artist

At the panel, you will meet artists who have turned creativity into a career. As you listen, think about:

- What kind of art would I like to explore more?
- What type of artist might I become one day?
- What new kinds of artists might exist in the future that don't exist yet?

**My ideas:**

**Questions I would like to ask:**

## Voices on Art – From Around the World

**“Art enables us to find ourselves and lose ourselves at the same time.”**

– Thomas Merton (USA)

**“The purpose of art is washing the dust of daily life off our souls.”**

– Pablo Picasso (Spain)

**“Art is not what you see, but what you make others see.”**

– Edgar Degas (France)

**“Stories are the way humans remember.”**

– African proverb

**“Art should comfort the disturbed and disturb the comfortable.”**

– César A. Cruz (Mexico/USA)

**“When we create, we are never alone.”**

– Japanese saying (adapted)

## Conclusion

There is no single pathway to becoming an artist. Curiosity, grit, imagination, collaboration and courage matter just as much as skills. This panel is a chance to listen, wonder and imagine what your artistic future might look like.