

# KARL RUDZIAK Artist

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Rudziak is a figurative painter based in Portsmouth, UK with a focus on portraiture. His work resides in private and public hands as part of Portsmouth city art collection and has been exhibited in the National Portrait Gallery, the Royal Academy, the Royal Society of Marine Artists and the National Gallery of Scotland.

Over the past five years Rudziak has teamed up with Portsmouth City Council and the Arts Council for his project, We Don't Need Culture, creating works of Portsmouth residents in an attempt to encapsulate the community and cultural environment of the city.

The project's ironic title is prompted by re-evaluating the idea of high and low culture, to break down elitist connotations associated with fine art tradition and explore culture within the context of a matrix rather than a hierarchy.

John Portsmouth Football Club Westwood  
National Portrait Gallery, BP Awards 2009



Rudziak said: "I paint people to connect to the environment in which I live. It's my way of attempting to understand the ever growing complexity of the human condition in an ever growing digital society.

"Painting people is a way of connecting to my environment in way I could never say or write down in words. It is about identity and questioning cultural assumptions of embedded in our upbringing.

"I am interested in the mechanisms we use to project values on to or judge people using common cultural visual signs - like clothes, haircuts, jewellery, tattoos. How quickly we arrive at value statements and judgements about personality and background by the way someone looks."

Karl's portrait of John Westwood was displayed as part of the prestigious BP Portrait Award exhibition at the National Portrait Gallery between June and September 2009 and as a result is featured in 500 Portraits published by the NPG. John is one of the most recognisable football supporters in England.

Links:

[We Don't Need Culture](#)  
[National Portrait Gallery](#)

# CV:

**Education: 1994-96 BA Hons, Art, Design and Media, First Class, University of Portsmouth**

<b>May 30 - 24 2019</b>	D-Day Veterans from the Royal Collection, Portsmouth City Museum
<b>May 14 - 24 2019</b>	8 at the Edge group exhibition, Yellow Edge Gallery, Gosport
<b>October 11 - 20 2018</b>	Royal Society of Marine Artists, Annual exhibition
<b>June 12 - Aug 19 2018</b>	Royal Academy 250th Summer Show
<b>April 2018 - May 2019</b>	We Don't Need Culture 3 Project with Arts Council England
<b>April 2017 - May 2018</b>	We Don't Need Culture 2 Project with Arts Council England
<b>April 2016 - April 2017</b>	We Don't Need Culture Project with Arts Council England
<b>Dec 2016</b>	Solo Exhibition Kings Theatre, Southsea
<b>March 2015 - Dec 2015</b>	We Don't Need Culture Project with Portsmouth City Council
<b>April 18 - May 18 2015</b>	Depiction5, Group Exhibition, Atelier Gallery Castle Road, Portsmouth
<b>Jul/Aug 2015</b>	Portsmouth and Hampshire Art Society Summer Exhibition First Prize, Public Vote
<b>Jul/Aug 2014</b>	Portsmouth and Hampshire Art Society Summer Exhibition
<b>July 2013</b>	Solo Exhibition, The Zodiac Gallery, The Guildhall, Portsmouth
<b>June 2013</b>	First Prize, The Royal Naval Yacht Club, Portsmouth Festivities
<b>Jul/Aug 2013</b>	Portsmouth and Hampshire Art Society Summer Exhibition Second and Third Prize, Public Vote
<b>Sept - Oct 2012</b>	Solo Exhibition, Life - the Gallery, Farnham
<b>Jul/Aug 2012</b>	Portsmouth and Hampshire Art Society Summer Exhibition
<b>Sept 2011</b>	Group Exhibition, The New Gallery, Portscatho
<b>Jul/Aug 2011</b>	Portsmouth and Hampshire Art Society Summer Exhibition First Prize Public Vote
<b>Dec 2010</b>	Finalist National Open Art Competition, Minerva Theatre, Chichester
<b>July 2010</b>	The New Gallery, Portscatho
<b>July 2010</b>	Group Exhibition, The Kennels, Goodwood
<b>Oct 2010 - Mar 2011</b>	Artist in residence, Portsmouth Grammar School
<b>Jul/Aug 2010</b>	Portsmouth and Hampshire Art Society, Third Prize, First Prize Peoples Choice, Portsmouth
<b>Dec - Jan 2009</b>	BP Awards Dean Gallery of the National Galleries of Scotland, Edinburgh
<b>Sept - Dec 2009</b>	BP Awards Southampton City Gallery, Finalist, Exhibition Exhibitor, Southampton
<b>June -Sept 2009</b>	BP Awards National Portrait Gallery, Finalist, Exhibition Exhibitor, London
<b>Sept 2008</b>	Portsmouth Open Art Competition, First Prize, Portsmouth City Museum