

TRANSCRIPT

ACCESSIBLE LEARNING WITH JACOPO AMIGONI

This is a transcript of the video featured in the Accessible Learning with Jacopo Amigoni resource. You can view the video [here](#).

- 00:00:06 Hi. I'm Ingrid, and I'm here with my friend Monique.
- 00:00:10 We are teachers here at the National Gallery of Victoria in Melbourne, which is sometimes also called the NGV.
- 00:00:18 At the NGV there are lots of artworks from all over the world for you to see and enjoy with your family and friends.
- 00:00:26 There are also lots of special events and activities that happen in the gallery too, especially in the school holidays.
- 00:00:35 Today we're going to have a close look at one of the artworks that you might see when you visit.
- 00:00:44 This painting was made over 270 years ago. It was painted by an Italian artist named Jacopo Amigoni. He was from a country called Italy.
- 00:01:02 Let's take a moment to look closely at the painting. What do you see?
- 00:01:14 Hmm. I can see a group of people together. I wonder who they might be.
- 00:01:21 Let's see if we can find some clues that might tell us more about who these people are. What did you notice when you looked closely at the painting, Monique?
- 00:01:35 Well, I noticed some people dressed in very fancy clothes. I think they look like they might be friends.
- 00:01:48 They look like they are sitting or standing close to one another and seem very comfortable together. And if we look at the hands, we can see that they connect the people in the painting.
- 00:02:04 Let's start with the man holding the brushes. His hand is on the shoulder of the person next to him.
- 00:02:13 This person is holding a piece of paper in his hand which is also in the hand of the lady next to him.
- 00:02:21 And finally, this person right at the end, his hand is resting gently on the arm of the lady.
- 00:02:31 Also, look at their faces. What expressions can we see? How are these people feeling?
- 00:02:39 I can see some smiles on faces that look relaxed and happy. I feel like that when I'm with my friends. Do you?

00:02:51 I also noticed that each person is holding something in their hand.

00:03:04 I wonder what these objects might tell us about each person. Who's holding what and why?

00:03:13 These four adults shown in the painting were very good friends.

00:03:18 They had some similar interests or things they enjoyed. They all loved music and art. We know this because of the music and art related things that they are holding like paint brushes, paint and sheet music.

00:03:39 They often worked together to create operas, a kind of music show. Have you ever seen an opera?

00:03:49 There are fancy costumes, complicated sets and backgrounds and dramatic singing.

00:03:58 Can you think of something you and a friend of yours both like? I know Monique and I both enjoy roller skating together.

00:04:07 Yes! And we like to put puzzles together, too.

00:04:11 That's right.

00:04:13 Now, the artist has painted himself into the picture. Can you see which one he is? I'll give you a clue. He's holding the paint brushes.

00:04:25 He's put his name 'Amigoni' on the brushes, kind of like you might at school to keep track of who owns what.

00:04:35 Brushes are very important to an artist so it makes sense he'd want to label them with his name. But it's also a really clever way of putting his name into the painting.

00:04:50 Did you notice any other names?

00:04:53 If you look closely, you might see 'P Metastasio'. Pietro Metastasio was a writer. He wrote poetry and words and stories to put to music. In this painting, he's holding a quill, which is an old-fashioned pen.

00:05:12 Have you seen one of these in real life before? They're often made out of a feather like the one here in the painting and you dip the pointy end in ink and use that to write on your page.

00:05:27 A quill or a pen is very important to a writer, so it makes sense that he's been painted holding one.

00:05:36 Now let's look closely at the paper on the ground.

00:05:40 See the word 'Castellini'? That is the name of this person here. She was an opera singer.

00:05:52 Opera is a type of classical music. Remember we talked about opera at the start.

00:05:59 It's pretty dramatic with lots of big voices and fancy costumes. Opera singers have to work very hard to train their voices to sing the high and low notes.

00:06:13 Now the letters 'CBF' are the initials of another famous opera singer called Carlo Broschi Farinelli.

00:06:24 He's the person in the middle of the painting. He's sharing the music with the other singer.

00:06:33 If you look closely again, you might spot the initials 'CBF' on the sheet music and also on the dog's collar.

00:06:45 The dog with 'CBF' on the collar belongs to Farinelli.

00:06:52 He's really labelled a lot of things in this painting, hasn't he?

00:06:56 And look! There's one other person in the painting.

00:07:01 This child here on the right side of the painting, that's dressed in fancy clothing and holding the artist's palette, is the artist's assistant.

00:07:12 His job is to help the artist by doing things like getting his paint for him and cleaning the paint brushes.

00:07:20 The people in the painting had all been friends for many years before this picture was painted. Do you have any friends that you've known for a long time?

00:07:33 All of the friends in this painting were connected by their talent and passion for music and art. That's what they had in common and that's what brought them together.

00:07:45 Farinelli and Metastasio had been friends since they were young in Italy.

00:07:52 Even though they often lived and worked in different places they'd write to each other and keep in touch.

00:08:00 Back then there were no phones or emails, so writing to each other was the only way people could keep in contact with each other.

00:08:09 How do you stay in contact with your friends? Maybe you sit together during lunch at school and talk to each other.

00:08:20 Maybe you call your friends or send a text message to say hi. Or perhaps you like to write your friend a letter just like Farinelli and Metastasio did.

00:08:33 These friends were together in a country called Spain and were about to say goodbye because they were leaving to go to different places.

00:08:44 This singer Farinelli, remember this person here, asked his friend Amigoni to paint this picture as a record of their friendship. Kind of like how you or your friends might take a photo to capture a time when you are together. This is like a really early form of selfie.

00:09:10 Farinelli and Metastasio even wrote a song about saying goodbye. Isn't that a nice way to celebrate a special moment with friends?

00:09:30 As well as being very good friends each person shown in the painting had a special talent, something they were really good at.

00:09:41 Amigoni was a clever painter. Metastasio was good at writing. And Castellini and Farinelli were talented singers.

00:09:59 When they worked together as a group each of their individual talents and skills helped make the opera shows that they created even more special.

00:10:16 Think of a special talent or quality you have. Something that you're good at. I'm good at drawing.

00:10:25 And I'm good at sewing.

00:10:28 When we bring our talents together and work as a team we can design and make super cool costumes which is really fun.

00:10:39 Later on today, you can chat with your friends and make a plan to work together on something using all the things that each of you is good at.

00:10:51 Maybe you will write a song with dance moves or create and act out a battle scene or write and draw a comic book. It all depends on what your talents are.

00:11:08 Monique I really enjoyed looking at this painting with you and thinking about these talented people and their special friendship.

00:11:18 What did you learn when you slowed down to look closely at this painting?

00:11:25 Well, I learned that this painting was made by an artist named Amigoni and that he made it to remember his special friends Farinelli and Castellini, the opera singers, and Metastasio, the writer.

00:11:51 I also learned that artists can include lots of clues in their artworks to help us, the people looking, understand what the painting is about.

00:12:05 What about you, Ingrid?

00:12:08 I learned that Amigoni painted special objects in the hands of each of his friends to show what kinds of jobs they did. And he also included the names of each of his friends to make sure they would always be remembered.

00:12:30 I also learned that we all have our own special talents just like the people in this painting. And we can combine our talents with our friends to create really cool things together.

00:12:44 We hope you enjoyed learning about this painting and thinking about your special friendships too.