

to go! Rankin

Rankin (John Rankin Waddell) was born in 1966 in Scotland. Rankin is a photographer, publisher and film director who is best known for his portraits of celebrities and of close-up portraits of eyes. Eyes have become an important theme in his work, of which he says, “The eyes are the first thing I look at.”

In his “Eyescapes”, Rankin takes an extreme close-up photograph of a person’s eye and then prints them really big so that you can see all the tints, shades and colors in the eye.

Materials: One sheet of 8 ½” x 11” white paper, one square sheet of paper about the size of the palm of your hand, mirror, pencil, crayons

Directions:

- Fold the small square sheet in half and cut a square out of the middle. Unfold the paper. This will be your viewfinder. In photography, a *viewfinder* is what the photographer looks through to compose the picture.
- Use a mirror to look at your own eye. Hold your viewfinder up to your face creating a “frame” around your eye. Look at the *iris*, or the circle part of your eye that is colored. What colors do you see in your eyes? For example, brown eyes can be dark brown, or light brown. They can also have gold and black parts.
- Now look at your *pupil*. This is the part of the eye that lets light in. If there is too much light, it gets very small. If it is dark, it gets very big to let lots of light in so that you can see.
- On your white paper, practice sketching your iris and pupil.
- When you are ready, turn your paper over to the clean side and then turn it so that the long side is closest to you. Now draw your iris and pupil on your white paper with a pencil. Make it very large! You want the top and bottom part of the circle to touch the top and bottom of your page.
- Color in your iris and pupil with crayons. Does your iris have straight lines, wavy lines, or blobs of color? Use your viewfinder and check in the mirror whenever you need to.
- When everyone is done, look at each other’s “eyescape”. Does everyone have the same color eye? Use your viewfinder on your family members. How are your eyes the same or different?



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