

# Open Studio

## A Collection of Art-Making Ideas by Artists

### Adam McEwen

## “Inventing Fact and Fiction”

# Aspen Art Museum

## April 2017

#### About Open Studio

Open Studio makes contemporary art education accessible to educators and students around the world by offering a collection of classroom activities created by noted international artists. The activities cover a wide range of materials, media, and subject matter, and can be tailored to students of all ages. This project was originally conceived by Los Angeles-based artist Mark Bradford for the J. Paul Getty Museum and has since expanded to the Aspen Art Museum and the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art.



Adam McEwen. Photo: Aubrey Mayer

#### About the Artist

Adam McEwen was born in London, in 1965, and currently lives and works in New York. He received a BA in English Literature from Christ Church, Oxford, and a BFA from California Institute of the Arts, Valencia, CA. Recent exhibitions have taken place at: de la Cruz Collection, Miami, MoMA PS1, Whitney Museum of American Art, Museo Civico Diocesano di Santa Maria dei Servi, Fondation Louis Vuitton, Winter Palace and 21er Haus, and the Goss-Michael Foundation. McEwen is the AAM 2016–17 Gabriela and Ramiro Garza Distinguished Artist in Residence.

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# Activity

An obituary is the written story of someone's life that appears in a newspaper after they die. It's the whole account of their life, from beginning to end, and it's meant to be true. But, of course, it's only one version. There might be many different versions of the same story, depending on who tells it.

Thinking about writing someone's story is a way of looking at this slippery, complicated, and fun relationship between fact and fiction.

## Step 1

Think of a person whose life story you'd like to tell. It could be your hero or heroine, your mom or dad, or a friend—it could be someone you know or a made-up person. It might be that you know the most about yourself, and writing your own life story could be easiest. Start a rough draft, making a list of things that you can use in your story.

## Step 2

Write a headline that sums up the person and draws the reader in.

## Step 3

Start by writing the obituary with the person's name, and say what they were best known for. Then tell their story from the beginning: where they were born, where they went to school, what kind of a student they were, how they became a fully-grown person.

Think about the difference between what you want to reveal and what you don't.

You could write two different versions of the same person's story, each focusing on different sides of their character. Which one is truer?

### Bill Clinton

Forty-second President of the United States who presided over a decade of prosperity and stability



BILL CLINTON, who has died aged 70, was the 42nd President of the United States. He was the first president to be impeached and the first to be acquitted. He was also the first president to be impeached and the first to be acquitted.

Clinton was a member of the Democratic Party and served as the 42nd President of the United States from 1993 to 2001. He was the first president to be impeached and the first to be acquitted.

Clinton (1941) gift of empathy made him vulnerable at the polling booths as the signs said, in the days before the election, would become high times in American history. Clinton was the first president to be impeached and the first to be acquitted.

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Adam McEwen, *Untitled (Bill)*, 2004. C-print, 52 3/4 x 37 in (133.9 x 93.9 cm). Courtesy the artist and Petzel, New York

### Kate Moss

Gamine model whose celebrity and long career survived the excesses of a rock and roll lifestyle



KATE MOSS, who has died aged 40, was the most successful model in the world. She was the first model to be named 'It Girl' and the first to be named 'It Girl'.

Moss was a member of the Victoria's Secret Fashion Show and served as the 2001 Victoria's Secret Fashion Show model. She was the first model to be named 'It Girl' and the first to be named 'It Girl'.

Moss (1992) photographed by Mario Sorrenti: redefined modern ideas of beauty. She was the first model to be named 'It Girl' and the first to be named 'It Girl'.

Adam McEwen, *Untitled (Kate)*, 2006. C-print, 52 3/4 x 37 in (133.9 x 93.9 cm). Courtesy the artist and Petzel, New York

## Step 4

To make a poster that looks like a newspaper page, like Adam did, start with finding an image that best represents the person. Print, draw, or paint this image and glue it down on the upper part of a large piece of paper or card. Above it, write the name of the person in big letters followed by the headline below that. Then below that lay out the text. If you want it to look like a printed newspaper, put the text into three columns.

## Step 5

To take your project further, try writing your story as it goes into the future. Imagine what happens after you take each step in the story, and what each decision would lead to next. See if your account sounds convincing.

Think about the power of invention, of making up a story. If you write the story in your head and in your imagination, it's half way to making the story become true.

## Macaulay Culkin

Star of Home Alone who survived the perils of childhood celebrity to prove himself as a mature actor

MACAULAY CULKIN, the actor who last year spent 24 weeks in a hospital after a fall from a horse, is now 17 and is reportedly done with acting.

After a decade of fame, the actor has decided to end his career as an actor and to focus on his education. He is currently attending the University of California, Los Angeles, where he is studying for a degree in film and television production.

The actor, who was born on August 24, 1980, in New York City, is the son of a television producer and a model. He is the youngest of three children. He is currently attending the University of California, Los Angeles, where he is studying for a degree in film and television production.



Macaulay Culkin's career began in 1990 with the role of Kevin McCallister in the film "Home Alone." The film was a massive success, earning over \$285 million at the box office. Culkin's performance was widely praised, and he became a household name.

Following "Home Alone," Culkin starred in several other films, including "The Sandlot" (2003) and "The Hot Chick" (2002). He also appeared in the television series "The Sandlot" and "The Hot Chick." Culkin's career has been marked by a mix of success and controversy.

In 1997, Culkin was involved in a serious accident while riding a horse. He fell from the horse and sustained a severe head injury. The accident resulted in a brain injury and a period of unconsciousness. Culkin spent several weeks in a hospital and underwent extensive medical treatment.

After his recovery, Culkin returned to acting and starred in the film "The Sandlot" (2003). He also appeared in the television series "The Sandlot" and "The Hot Chick." Culkin's career has been marked by a mix of success and controversy.

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Adam McEwen, *Untitled (Macaulay)*, 2004. C-print, 52 3/4 x 37 in (133.9 x 93.9 cm). Courtesy the artist and Petzel, New York