

## *Triptych: Father, Husband, Son – Commentary for Tutor*

When I read my diary to develop my self-portrait, I was intrigued at the number of entries about my role as a father, husband or son.

I thought that I would like to explore this concept of me in my separate, different roles as opposed to a composite of all that makes me an individual.

What is a portrait? BRILLIANT (1997, p14-15) considers three criteria:

What do I look like?

What am I like?

Who am I?"

My response to this assignment is heavily focussed on the Who am I and What am I Like. There is nothing in the following images that will answer the question 'What do I Look like?' I decided to wear a mask for each of the three photos because, in a somewhat contrary way, I wanted to depersonalise my self-portrait.

I have tried to construct an image for each of the three roles that includes symbols to tell the story of how I am currently feeling within the particular role. I also tried to give a sense of season within each image by the inclusion of spring and summer flowers and autumn leaves. In addition I have tried to add a sense of colour within the background

- Green for spring in Father
- Orange for summer in Husband
- Blue for autumn/winter in Son

I think that I was influenced in creating these images by the research I did beforehand, in particular an image I first saw in *Self Portraits* by Liz RIDEAL (2005) of "Self-portrait with hare" by Sam Taylor-Wood. This gave me the idea of using the full length figure with props as symbols to convey a message. These are my interpretations of what currently preoccupies me as a Father, a Husband and a Son.

Full details of the story for each image and my conclusions are on my website at [www.light-writing.co.uk/candn](http://www.light-writing.co.uk/candn)

## References

Brilliant, R. (1991) *Portraiture (Essays in Art and Culture)*. London: Reaktion Books