



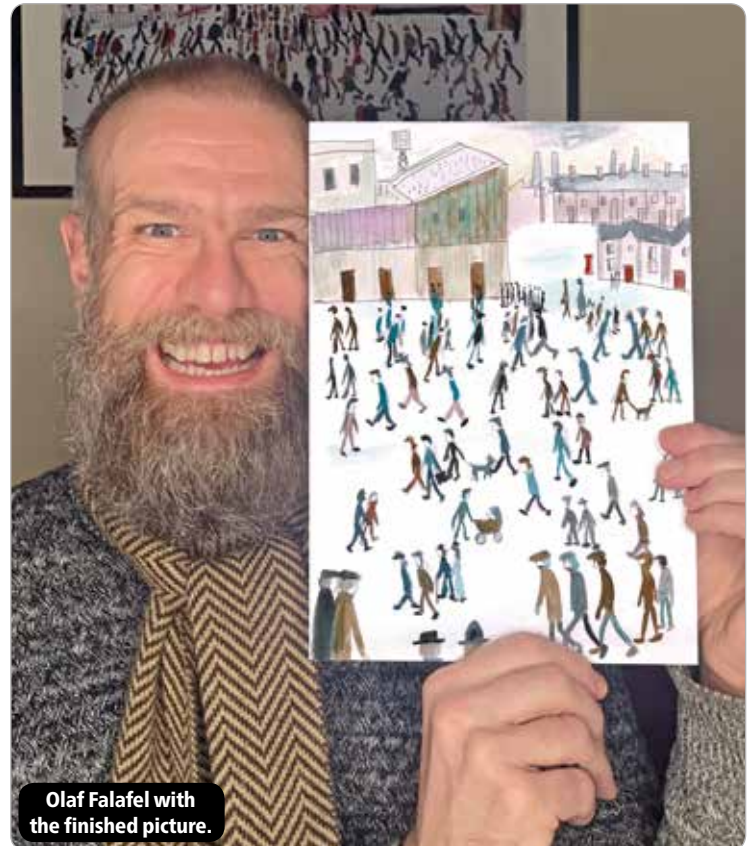
Make a matchstick men masterpiece

What you need

- A black ballpoint pen
- A sheet of A4 paper or card
- A flat pencil eraser
- Paints

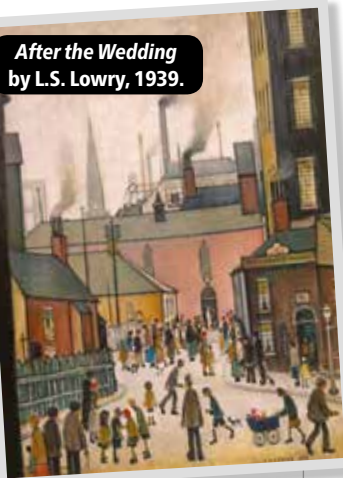
Olaf Falafel is a children's author, illustrator, dad of two daughters and a comedian. During the first lockdown he created an online art club (tinyurl.com/TWJ-olafart). Each episode was filled with jokes, useful tips, animations and facts about his favourite artists. Over to you, Olaf...

Why don't *T. rexes* jump? Because they're extinct! Anyway, enough nonsense – I'm going to tell you about one of my favourite British artists, a man called L.S. Lowry (I like Lowry's paintings so much that I asked for a framed print for Christmas – you can see it behind me). Lowry specialised in street scenes that showed the industrial areas around Manchester, England. His paintings contained lots of factories, smoking chimneys and rows of terraced houses. The thing Lowry is most known for is his people – his paintings contained LOTS of people. (Think *Where's Wally* but a million times more gloomy). People often referred to them as "matchstick men" although there were also women, cats, dogs, horses and children too. His paintings captured moments of everyday life, like going to work, shopping in the market or crowds of people off to watch football. I'm going to show you a pretty cool printing trick that will help you make your own people-filled Lowry scene a lot easier.



Olaf Falafel with the finished picture.

After the Wedding by L.S. Lowry, 1939.



1 First get your pen ready and your sheet of paper in portrait position (tall not wide). We are going to draw a background.



2 Draw some buildings in the top third of your sheet with the pen. I've drawn a football ground, some houses and a few factories.



3 Now take your eraser and draw a person on it (it doesn't need to look amazing – the ones Lowry painted weren't very detailed).



4 Press this down on your paper to "print" out four or five people. This will save you lots of time when creating your work of art.



5 Clean the eraser with water and washing-up liquid. Repeat with people in different poses.



6 When your scene is filled up, you can add extra details like hats, prams, children and animals.



7 Use paints to colour in your picture. Like Lowry, I've stuck to quite dull colours.



8 Paint in additional figures if you have any gaps and then you are done. Your very own Lowry!

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