

# May – Musician of the Month

## Sonia Boyce



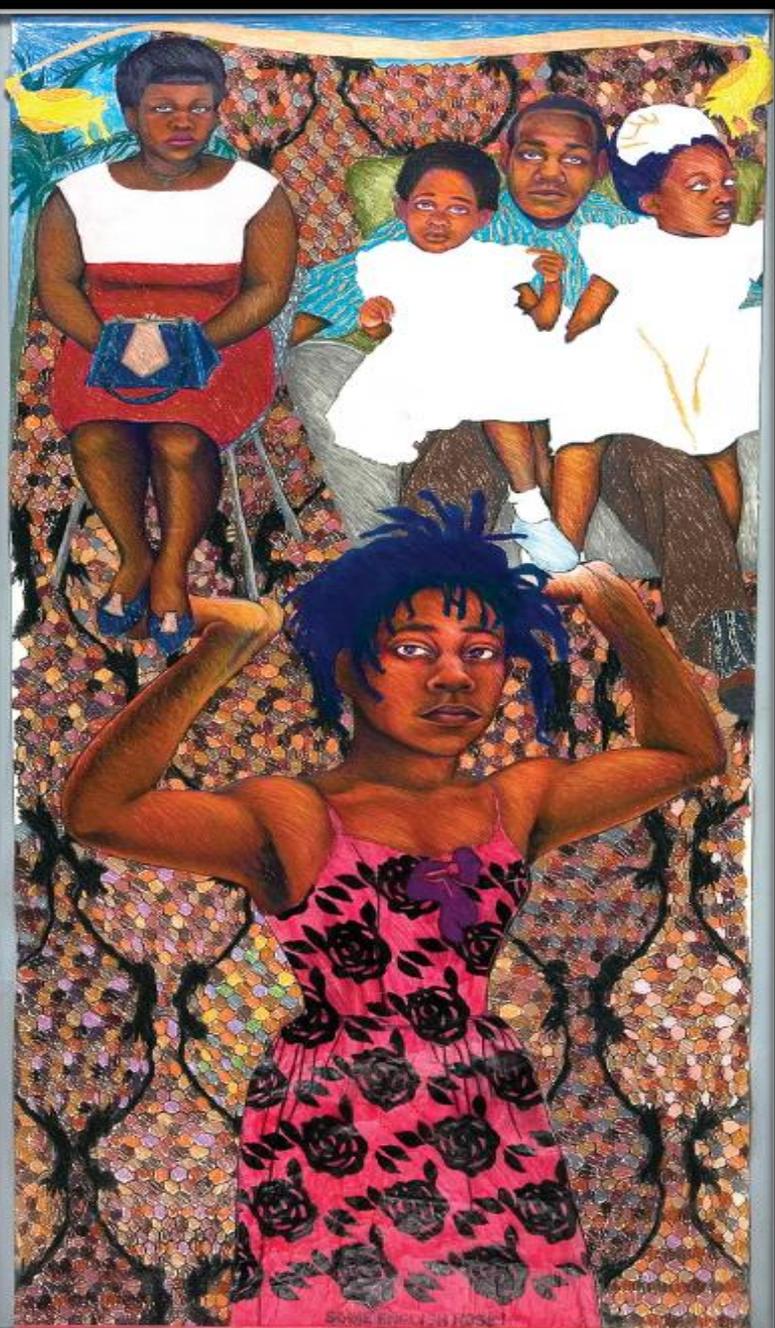
Sonia Boyce was born in London in 1962. At school, she would doodle in her notebooks. Her art teacher encouraged her to study at art school.

*She became a teacher and an artist. Sonia was influenced by Mexican artist [Frida Kahlo](#).*



Her first pieces of art were drawings. During the 1980s, she was linked to the British Black arts movement. This was a group of artists who made art about **race**, **gender** and equality in everyday life. Sonia included herself in some of her work. Her work was about identity and what it was like to grow up in London.





One of her most famous drawings is *She Ain't Holding Them Up, She's Holding On (Some English Rose)* which is pictured above. In this work Boyce portrays herself as the strong woman supporting a family who balance in her hands. The artwork is about the challenge of 'holding on' to the parts of your identity that come from your family, even if you've had a very different life from them.

In this drawing Boyce wears a pink dress decorated with black roses. The rose is the emblem of England, but the black colour is a reminder of her heritage. The flower is also associated with femininity, but the thorns give it a hidden strength. Through the pattern on her dress Boyce creates a new symbol that is true to her individual identity, combining Blackness, British nationality, and gender.

*She then decided to change her style and focus her artwork on photography, film and performance.*

*This is a photo of a dancer, that has been copied and reflected. It is the same upside down.*





This is called 'Devotional' and was started in 1999 - and Sonia keeps adding to it. It is to showcase powerful women and magazine covers.

# May - Art Task

## Family - Self Portraits

Draw a picture of you and your family.

This can be from any type of medium.

- Pencils
- Felt tips
- Photography
- Painting
- Crayons
- Pastels

Remember to write your name and class on the back.



