

“The Artist” by Rebecca

Phil May is a master of his craft. We can tell this by the way in which he can effortlessly create animation in his drawings. His style really brings his characters to life and he draws the viewer in through his immersive style. His ability to capture everyday life from memory or from seated observation shows real craftsmanship.

The entertainer - He has a signature ‘look’ where his characters look diagonally down with the whites of their eyes beaming as they glare. He has used this in a number of his drawings and in the ‘Negress’ sketch. The caption he uses under a lot of his artwork is to poke fun at the lives he observes or creates. He draws white women as attractive and desirable, black men as docile and uneducated, and black women as the stereotypical ‘Mammi’ character. Always busy, trying to pretend that they can be cultured.

The business man – Phil May plays to his white audience. There is a classist and overtly racist over-tone in his work that allows his audience to massage their superiority complex. Racism seems like a part of every day life and this is shown in a ‘coon’ song that was also performed.