

“The Artist” by Saraya

To me this drawing doesn't represent a black woman. It's more of a mere common stereotype and a white man's idea of a black lady in the context of the time. At this time, a person of colour wouldn't have been seen as much of a person at all. And because of these outdated views on a black person's humanity - she's entirely disconnected from the identity that she's meant to portray.

Mays intention with this piece was to gain laughs and make some money for charity. So he pandered to the humours of his late Victorian era audience. This fundraising event at the town hall also had other racist acts. This wasn't out of the norm for this society. And I don't believe May would have thought much about this portrait at all.

He wasn't aiming to depict any of his subjects in a humanising way at this event.

Phil May is a performer. He wanted to put on a show.