

Rachel's taking 'selfie' to new limits

By Emma Swain

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For eight days artist Rachel Milne will create the ultimate selfie.

But there won't be a technological gadget in sight.

Instead, Milne will use an easel, canvas and brush to paint a daily self-portrait as part of her artist-in-residence program at the Maitland Regional Art Gallery.

"The portraits will be based on a different theme each day and my goal is to break down the barriers between the public and the working artist," Milne, 36, said.

"Most people just see the final product and don't get to see someone working as a painter and see the genuine hard work that goes into what we do."



Milne's first portrait, which will be started today, will be titled Good Day To You Sir and will focus on identity. There will also be a piece about selfies and how people use social media to capture images of themselves.

"The final painting will be titled I'm Sick Of The Sight Of Myself and I think by then I probably will be," the British-born artist said. "But I do really like self-portraiture because I love painting the face and when you're painting yourself you have a face there to paint and you don't have to have any concerns for the sitter.

"It's an enjoyable experience because if you're interested in painting the figure then there is no-one better to paint than yourself."

n Rachel Milne's work will be part of the gallery's About Face project displayed in the Art Factory. Art lovers can see Milne at work between 11am and 3pm on Friday and Sunday and on August 26, 29, and 31.