

Mr and Mrs Clark and Percy

Listen and fill in the word/words you hear

Mr and Mrs Clark and Percy is by the British artist David Hockney, and it's considered to be one of the greatest British paintings of the 20th century. It was painted in (1)._____ and it's a **portrait** of two of his friends, Ossie Clark and his wife Celia, and their cat Percy. Ossie Clark and Celia were (2)._____ designers and they had a very successful clothes shop in London. In the 1960s they dressed a lot of famous pop stars of the time, including The Rolling Stones and Eric Clapton. Hockney painted Ossie and Celia a few months after they got (3)._____ in their flat at Notting Hill in London. He painted them in their (4)._____ because he liked the light there and on the left of the window you can see one of his own paintings.

Mr and Mrs Clark and Percy is a very big painting – **approximately** 3 metres wide and 2 metres high. The couple are wearing typical clothes of the late 1960s. Celia is wearing a long (5)._____ and in fact, she was expecting a baby at that time. Her husband isn't wearing any (6)._____ and he's putting his feet into the carpet. This was because Hockney had a lot of problems painting his feet. He just couldn't get them right.

Hockney said that his aim with this painting was to paint the (7)._____ between the two people. Traditionally, when a painter paints a married **couple**, the woman is sitting down and the man is standing up. In this painting the man is sitting and the woman is standing. Usually in a painting the married couple are close together, but in this painting they are separated by a big open (8)._____ which symbolizes the distance between them. The white cat, sitting on Mr Clark, is a symbol of **infidelity**. It seems that Hockney didn't think their marriage was going to be very happy and in fact the couple got **divorced** (9)._____ years later.

Celia often posed as a model of Hockney, but she says that this painting, his most famous picture of her, is not her favourite. She said "It's a wonderful painting, but it makes me look too heavy." In 1996, twenty five years after this picture was painted, Ossie Clark (10)._____. He was **murdered** by his lover in his Kensington flat.