The Harbour Bridge and the Opera House are central features of Ken Done’s Sydney paintings. Done pays attention to the visual form of the Bridge and Opera House. He often employs saturated, unrealistic colours and focuses on shape, light and abstract form. Below are some examples of Done’s paintings of the Harbour bridge and Opera House.

In the box provided, create your own artwork of the Harbour Bridge and Opera House. Remember to be creative! Look at shape, symbols, colour and you may even like to add your own text.

In 1980 Ken Done held his first solo exhibition at the Holdsworth Gallery. Several months later he held a second exhibition in his own studio in North Sydney. He created a simple design of Sydney Harbour Bridge and had it printed on to 12 T-shirts to give to the press who attended the showing. The design is known as “Classic Sydney”.

Create your own t-shirt design!

A young Ken Done wearing his “Classic Sydney” t-shirt design.
Ken loves to dive under the Sea. He often paints the reef and himself and his family diving.

“Since I had my first mask and snorkel as a very young boy, I’ve been fascinated by the things that live and grow under the sea. Shimmering, darting, glowing, flickering fish; crusty, craggy, dotted, spotted coral. Underwater gardens teeming with life. Another world of constant inspiration.”

Here is one of his reef works called “Swimming in Jellyfish Lake”.

Describe the way this artwork makes you feel. 

Below is a painting called “Morning Dive”. Add in your own jellyfish and sea creatures to the artwork!