# Kylie Minogue celebrates record AO Arena shows amid backlash to digital portrait



Kylie Minogue, a pop icon whose career has spanned over five decades, recently made headlines as she kicked off her Tension tour at Manchester’s AO Arena. This concert not only marked the beginning of her highly anticipated tour but also celebrated a significant milestone: it was her 33rd performance at the venue, making her the female artist with the most shows there.

To honour this achievement, the Australian singer was presented with a digital portrait, intended to encapsulate her impact and presence. However, the artwork elicited mixed reactions from her dedicated fanbase. While many applauded the tribute, others described the portrait as "atrocious" and "bloody awful," sparking a lively debate on social media. One fan expressed their fondness for Kylie's achievement while questioning the quality of the artwork, stating, “Love this achievement! But seriously what's with the atrocious artwork?” Another critic noted that the likeness bore a closer resemblance to Madonna than to Minogue herself.

In her Instagram post acknowledging the honour, Kylie wrote, “33 shows at the AO Arena Manchester the most played female artist. What an honour WOW WOW WOW!!! Thank you!!!” Despite the derision surrounding the artwork, Kylie's gracious acceptance of the tribute reflects her dedication to engaging with her fans, even amidst criticism.

The Tension tour follows Kylie's successful performances in other cities, where the energy and production of her shows have been widely praised. For instance, critics lauded her opening night in Perth, noting the positive feedback from attendees contrasted with negative comments from those who were not present. Reviewers highlighted the show's vibrant choreography and elaborate staging, reinforcing Kylie’s reputation as a consummate live performer.

The mixed reactions to the portrait presented to Kylie seem reminiscent of other artistic missteps that have gained notoriety over the years. Similar incidents have occurred in sports, notably with a bronze bust of football star Cristiano Ronaldo, which became infamous for its unflattering depiction. Similarly, ex-tennis champion Andy Murray received a statue that bore little resemblance to him, evoking a bemused response from the athlete himself.

As Kylie continues her tour, the dialogue surrounding her portrait underscores fans' high expectations not just for her music, but also for the visual tributes that accompany her celebrated career. With numerous dates lined up, including performances at renowned venues like London’s O2 Arena, it’s clear that Kylie Minogue remains a formidable force in the music industry, capable of generating excitement and discussion long after her concerts have ended.

As she moves forward with her Tension tour, the conversation surrounding her artistic representations illustrates the fine line between admiration and critique, a reflection of her enduring status in a rapidly evolving cultural landscape.

### Reference Map

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Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

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