

PORTRAITURE ART KIT

In this art kit, we will be exploring **portraiture**! A **portrait** is a painting, drawing, photograph, or other artistic representation of a person usually showing the face. Portraits can show more than what someone looks like. They can show personality, feelings, and other parts of who people are. A self-portrait is a portrait made by you of yourself.

Contemporary artists in the Broad collection like **Sharon Lockhart** and **Cindy Sherman** create portraits through photography. **Nathaniel Mary Quinn** creates portraits through drawing and painting.

LET'S BUILD OUR ART KNOWLEDGE! WORDS TO KNOW:



Contemporary artist

An artist who creates artwork today and from the recent past



Critique

To carefully judge or assess, giving your opinion about the good and bad parts of something



Identity

Who a person is, the character or personality of a person



Personality

The qualities, like moods or habits, that make one person unique



Staged photo

A photo that is planned or arranged

SHARON LOCKHART takes staged photos. She works with communities to make her photographs and films. Often, she spends months or years with the communities pictured in her work. She wants to give her viewers an idea of how people live in different areas. The clothing, objects, and way people are posed in her photos show us a little bit about their lives.

- Why do you think the artist chose to photograph kids?
- What stories do you think the kids would share about their lives?
- If Lockhart were to take your photo, how would you present yourself? What would you wear? How would you pose?
- What story would you share about your life? How would you show that in a photograph or drawing?



Sharon Lockhart, *Pine Flat Portrait Studio, Becky, Damien, Katie*, 2005. Three framed chromogenic prints. The Broad Art Foundation. © Sharon Lockhart

CINDY SHERMAN creates portraits by taking photos of herself. She uses wigs, makeup, and costumes to dress up as different characters. Her artworks **critique** how women are shown in movies, television, and magazines.

- What do you think is the story behind the character in each picture? What about the picture makes you think that?
- Why do you think the artist chose to photograph herself instead of someone else?
- List at least three characters from your favorite movie, television show, or book. What do you like about them? What do you dislike about them?
- How would you change one character? Is it how they act, or how they look? And why?
- If you were to dress up as your favorite character, what would you wear? How would you have to adjust your appearance?



Top: Cindy Sherman, *Untitled #119*, 1983. Chromogenic color print. The Eli and Edythe L. Broad Collection. © Cindy Sherman

Bottom: Cindy Sherman, *Untitled Film Still #58*, 1980. Gelatin silver print. The Broad Art Foundation. © Cindy Sherman



NATHANIEL MARY QUINN creates portraits of people that have impacted his life, such as his family members and friends. He is inspired by photographs and images from magazines and online. He combines features from many pictures to make one figure, using oil pastels, paint, and charcoal. His work shows that a person's **identity** is made up of many different things. Our experiences, the people in our lives, the images we see, and more help shape who we are. Even though Quinn's portraits may not look exactly like the people he is portraying, he wants to represent their **personalities**.

- Who do you think the artist is portraying in this artwork? What do you think their personality is like? What parts of this painting make you think that?
- Write down two or more people that are important to you. For example, a family member, a friend, or someone you look up to. Why did you choose these people?
- What words would you use to describe the personality of each of the important people? How would you represent them in a drawing or painting?
- Write down three or more words that describe you. For example, things that are important to you, your hobbies, or how you feel about yourself. How would you show that in a drawing or painting? What colors, patterns, and features would you use?



Nathaniel Mary Quinn, *C'mo' and Walk With Me*, 2019. Black charcoal, gouache, soft pastel, oil pastel on Coventry vellum paper. The Broad Art Foundation. © Nathaniel Mary Quinn

CREATE A PORTRAIT OR A SELF-PORTRAIT!

Artists often ask themselves questions about the world around them. They write or draw ideas in journals or sketchbooks as the first steps to creating their artworks. The journal in your kit can be used to write down the answers to the questions in the art cards.

You can also use the journal to brainstorm ideas!



WILL you make a self-portrait?

WILL you make a portrait of someone else?

WHY did you choose that person?

Use the materials in your box and take photographs to create a portrait!



MATERIALS INCLUDED:



Journal



Cardstock paper



Pencil



Oil pastels



Scissors



Glue



Construction paper

HERE'S AN ART TIP! Oil pastels create rich vibrant color! You can easily blend colors together by applying a thick layer of one color and then applying another color on top.