

An Introduction To Contemporary Portraiture

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SCHOOL: Rocky River High School, Rocky River, Ohio

WORKSHOP LOCATION: Kent State Fashion Museum, Kent, Ohio

GRADE LEVEL(S) : 9-12

CURRICULUM/SUBJECT AREA: Art

OHIO ACADEMIC CONTENT STANDARDS:

Fine Arts Guidelines: Visual Art

Historical, Cultural and Social Contexts

Students understand the impact of visual art on the history, culture and society from which it emanates. They understand the cultural, social and political forces that, in turn, shape visual art communication and expression. Students identify the significant contributions of visual artists to cultural heritage. They analyze the historical, cultural, social and political contexts that influence the function and role of visual art in the lives of people.

Creative Expression and Communication

Students create artworks that demonstrate understanding of materials, processes, tools, media, techniques, and available technology. They understand how to use art elements, principles, and images to communicate their ideas in a variety of visual forms.

Analyzing and Responding

Students identify and discriminate themes, media, subject matter and formal technical and expressive aspects in works of art. They understand and use the vocabulary of art criticism to describe visual features, analyze relationships and interpret meanings in works of art. Students make judgments about the quality of works of art using the appropriate criteria.

Valuing the Arts/Aesthetic Reflection

Students understand why people value visual art. They present their beliefs about the nature and significance of selected artworks and the reasons for holding these beliefs. Students reflect diverse points of view about artworks and artifacts.

SPECIFIC TOPIC WITH EXPLANATION: Students in grades 9-12 will be researching portraiture work of contemporary artists. This research is preparation for the creation of a self-portrait to be made in a style influenced by the work of an artist or artistic movement studied.

They will:

- Research and identify portraiture work of contemporary artists.
- Compare and contrast the works of the artists, identify themes, media, subject matter, artistic techniques, and formal and expressive aspects in the works of art.
- Understand the cultural, social and political forces that shape visual art communication and expression.
- Understand the impact of visual art on the history, culture, and society from which it emanates.

--- Understand and use art criticism vocabulary to describe, analyze and interpret artworks.

SUBJECT HEADINGS:

Artists
Art History
Contemporary Art
Biography
Painting
Portraits
Sculpture
Photography

MUSEUM WEB SITES (FOR STUDENTS)

National Galley of Art- Washington DC. USA

<http://www.nga.gov/education/american/portraiture.shtm>

Synopsis of the history of American portraiture

National Galley of Art- Washington DC. USA

http://www.nga.gov/education/classroom/self_portraits/act_intro_self.shtm

Who Am I?: Self Portraits in Art and Writing

Who am I? is a set of art and writing activities designed to help students begin to answer this question. Students begin with an introductory lesson on to self-portraiture. Following lessons guide teach them to look carefully at self-portraits in the National Gallery of Art's collection by Vincent van Gogh, Paul Gauguin, Judith Leyster, David Alfaro Siqueiros, and Andy Warhol and respond to questions online.

Chicago Institute of Art

http://www.artic.edu/artaccess/AA_Modern/index.html

Modern and Contemporary Art

The Art Institute's extensive galleries present examples of abstraction from the early years of the 20th century by Pablo Picasso, Henri Matisse, and Vasily Kandinsky to challenging contemporary works in a variety of media by artists such as Bruce Nauman, Cindy Sherman, and Katharina Fritsch. Click onto images and a brief biography of the artist and analysis of the artwork is given.

Hirshhorn Museum- Wasington DC, USA

<http://hirshhorn.si.edu/educate/list.asp>

Meet the Artist: Tony Oursler

Internationally renowned video artist Tony Oursler discusses his method of animating objects with the use of projectors. His work appears in the Hirshhorn's two-part exhibition "The Cinema Effect".

Length: 1:18:48

National Portrait Gallery- London, England

http://www.npg.org.uk/live/NPGTeachersNotes_selfportco.pdf

Self-Portrait Commission Project

Students are directed to create self-portraits, both formal and fictive, following a commission brief from the Gallery in reference to portraits selected from the Gallery's Collection.

MUSEUM WEB SITES (FOR TEACHERS)

National Gallery of Art- Washington DC, USA

<http://www.nga.gov/education/classroom/pdf/artsince1950.pdf>

Teaching Art Since 1950

This teaching packet is designed to help teachers, primarily in the upper grades, talk with their students about art produced since 1950 and some of the issues it raises. The focus is on selected works from twenty-seven artists from the collection of the National Gallery Of Art. Research, art, and writing activities are suggested. A packet of slides, reproductions and an illustrated timeline are available for loan to teachers. Some examples of portraits are illustrated.

National Portrait Gallery- London, England

http://www.npg.org.uk/live/NPGTeachersNotes_portoftoda.pdf

This site provides secondary art lesson plans that include background information on artists and portraiture, activities and lessons that invite students to examine and explore media and techniques, and to analyze their own work and the work of other artists. Study of the images enables students to develop an understanding of context and materials.

National Portrait Gallery- London, England

http://www.npg.org.uk/live/NPGTeachersNotes_OilCont.pdf

Contemporary Portraits- Oil Painting

The portraits in this pack are part of the contemporary portraits in the collection. Each one has been chosen for its different pose and its different use of oil paint. Teachers may wish to use this pack as to discuss different approaches to portraiture in contemporary art.

National Portrait Gallery- London, England

http://www.npg.org.uk/live/NPGTeachersNotes_ContemPort.pdf

Contemporary Portraits- Sculpture

The National Portrait Gallery has an extensive collection of portrait sculptures, in addition to paintings, drawings, prints and photographs. The sculptures in this pack all date from the 20th century and have been chosen for their use of different approaches and materials.

National Portrait Gallery- London, England

http://www.npg.org.uk/live/NPGTeachersNotes_selfportco.pdf

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National Portrait Gallery- London, England

http://www.npg.org.uk/live/NPGTeachersNotes_PopArt.pdf

Pop Art Portraits- Introducing a New Image Of Art

This unit explores Pop Art's complex and enormously creative engagement with portraiture and the international legacy of this movement. Themes examined are Pop Artists (introducing a new image of art), origins of Pop (color scale, pattern and design in Pop portraits), portraits and style (Pop portraits: the unique and the multiple), fantasy (the celebrity Pop portrait) , and Innocence and experience (illusion and reality). Each theme is illustrated with interpretive texts, suggested activities and discussion points.

MOMA

<http://www.moma.org/modernteachers/lessons>.

Portraiture

From the guide Artist's Work/Artist's Voice: Picasso

Portraits can represent individuals in many different ways. These three portraits by Picasso represent a range of styles, from representational to abstract.

MOMA

http://www.moma.org/modernteachers/files/MAI7_5.pdf

Artist's Choice: People

From the guide Modern Art and Ideas 7: 1950–1969

This lesson examines Abstract Expressionism and Pop Art portraits

The lesson examines three different representations of women by the artists Willem de Kooning, Roy Lichtenstein and Richard Hamilton. Examining radically different artistic styles, this lesson considers the stereotypes these works present.

MOMA

http://www.moma.org/modernteachers/files/Photo_1.pdf

Picturing People: Photography in MoMA's Collection | pdf

Posed

From the guide Photography in MOMA'S Collection

This lesson examines the art of portrait photography and compares two portrait photographs of the nineteenth and twentieth century. Students are introduced to conventions of portraiture such as composition, pose, expression and framing.

Examples of the portrait photography of William Shew and Henri Cartier- Bresson are compared.

MOMA

<http://www.moma.org/modernteachers/lesson.php?lessonID=20>
[1913–1936 : Dada and Surrealism](#) Lesson Three: Portraiture | [pdf](#)

From the guide Modern Art and Ideas 5

The lesson is an introduction to the Dada and Surrealistic conventions of portraiture, the use of symbolism, and an introduction to photomontage. Examples of the work of George Grosz, Hannah Hoch, and Man Ray are studied.

Los Angeles Museum of Art (LACMA)

Parallel Visions: Modern Artists and Outsider Art

<http://www.lacma.org/programs/TeachersSchoolsEECurriculum.aspx#20thcenturyart>

This lesson plan packet derives from the exhibition Parallel Visions: Modern Artists and Outsider Art, which examined the relationships between five generations of modern artists and the so-called outsider artists who inspired them. These outsiders, removed from the established system of art museums, galleries, and universities, created intensely powerful and influential works of art from a position of singularity and isolation. Included are six color slides of art by Paul Klee, August Neter, Madge Gill, Jean Dubuffet, Simon Rodia, and Howard Finster.

BOOKS (NON-FICTION)

Cleveland Public Library

William, Bartman; Joanne Kesten (editors) (1997). The Portraits Speak: Chuck Close in Conversation with 27 of his subjects. A.R.T. Press, New York. ISBN 0923183183.
Photorealistic artist, Chuck Close, discusses his portraiture work.

Cuyahoga County Library

Kimmelman, Michael.

Title **Portraits** : talking with artists at the Met, the **Modern**, the Louvre, and elsewhere / Michael Kimmelman.

Pub info New York : Random House, c1998.

ISBN 0679452192

Portrait artists discuss their work, motivation, techniques and models.

Cuyahoga County Library

Title **Frida Kahlo / edited by Elizabeth Carpenter; texts by Elizabeth Carpenter, Hayden Herrera, and Vict _**

Pub info Minneapolis: Walker Art Center, c2007.

ISBN 9780935640885

A biography and illustrations of the artwork of Frida Kahlo

Cuyahoga County Library

Title Expressionist portraits by Frank Whitford.
Pub info New York : Abbeville Press, c1987.
ISBN 0896597806

Introduction, explanations, and examples of the art of German Expressionism portrait painters.

Rocky River Public Library

Title Artoday by Edward Lucie-Smith.
Publisher:Phaidon, c1995.
ISBN: 0714832014

This book is a survey of one of the richest, most controversial and perhaps most thoroughly confusing epochs in the whole history of the visual arts -- the period from 1960 to the mid-1990s. This book provides a clear and comprehensive guide to contemporary world art.

REFERENCE AND/OR PROFESSIONAL RESOURCES

Cleveland Museum of Art

Self-Portraits: Forms of Identity
Distance Learning/ video conferencing
<http://www.clevelandart.org/educf/distance/html/4312127.html>
Lessons include teacher information packets with extension activities

MEDIA RESOURCES

Video Interviews

National Gallery Of Art- Washington,DC, USA

<http://www.nga.gov/education/classroom/pdf/artsince1950.pdf>

The Gallery's Department of Education Resources lends videos of interviews with artists. Interviews with the following artists are available : David Hockney, Roy Lichtenstein, Scott Burton, Pat Steir, Robert Rauschenberg, Jim Dine, Nancy Graves, Helen Frankenthaler and Wayne Thiebaud,

Rocky River High School Media Center

VHS ----- Chuck Close- A Portrait in Progress

An Interview of photorealist portrait painter Chuck Close as he works in his studio. Work and interviews with artists Robert Rauschenberg, Philip Glass, Kiki Smith, and Alex Katz are compared with Close's work.(DVD - 2003)

Cleveland Public Library

VHS----- Andy Warhol (video recording)

A documentary film / a co-production of Steeplechase Films,
[Arlington, VA] : PBS Home Video ; Hollywood, Calif. : Paramount Pictures c2006.

ISBN: 1415716978

This is a documentary film on the life and work of artist Andy Warhol.

Cuyahoga County Library

[Art 21 \[video recording\] : art in the twenty-first century. Seasons one and two / a production of Art](#) __[United States] : Art21,Inc. ; [Alexandria, Va.] : Distributed by PBS Home Video, c2003. _2 videodiscs (ca. 7 1/2 hrs.) : sd., col. ; 1/2 in. Videodisc DVD seasons one and two__

Meet diverse contemporary artists through revealing profiles that take viewers behind the scenes into artists' studios, homes, and communities to provide an intimate view of their lives, work, sources of inspiration and creative processes.

INTERACTIVE WEB SITES

National Gallery Of Art

<http://www.nga.gov/kids/zone/pixelface.htm>

[NGAkids: PixelFace](#) Interactive portrait maker and drawing board ([Macromedia Shockwave Player](#) required)