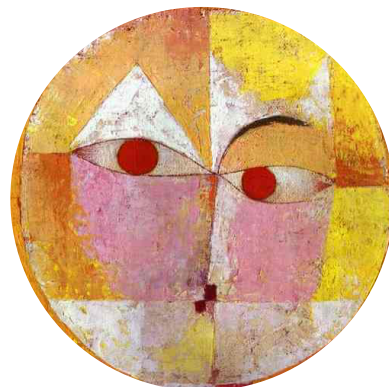


What is a portrait?

Portraits are artistic representations of people. Portraiture is a very old art form dating back to ancient Egypt more than 5000 years ago. A portrait is an artwork that tells a story. They can be created in any media, including paintings, photographs, sculpture, and even mixed media. Portraits can tell us about how we see people. A portrait shows us what a person looks like and can also capture an idea of a person. Portraits can tell us how a person wants to be seen, or what the artist sees in the sitter. Portraits often contain many clues that can reveal information about the sitter's life and identity. Posture, body language and facial expression provide clues about the sitter's mood and personality.



What is a sitter?

The sitter is the person in the portrait. Sometimes they are called the subject.

What is a self-portrait?

A self-portrait is one the artist makes of themselves. Sometimes artists make self-portraits to express their own sense of identity and inner self.



What can we learn from portraiture?

In art history, portraits not only tell us about the person depicted, but also about the place and time in which they lived. They also can tell us about the roles people played in society. Recent portraiture comes in limitless forms, and it is no longer simply a marker of status, but a way of exploring another person's life.

What can a portrait do?

A portrait can give a sense of who the sitter is and the importance they held to others during their life, be it an individual family member or the community at large. Portraits can elevate a person's status, making them more widely known. They also can honor those who are deceased, giving them immortality, portraits live on forever!



How to read a portrait?

Color – Color can reflect the natural skin tone of the subject, or colors can be used to express or evoke emotions and feelings. Colors add life and character to the portrait.

Pose – Is the sitter looking back at you or looking in another direction. Is the sitter passive or active. Meeting someone's gaze, eye to eye, can impact our understanding of the artists intent and how we feel about what we are "seeing".

Facial Expression – Is the sitter somber, serious, laughing, smiling, frowning, crying? The facial expression helps us understand the meaning of the painting.

Composition – The compositional elements of a portrait include the position of the sitter; but lines, shape, value, and color can be used to direct our attention to portions of the painting and the overall meaning.

Style – The style of a painting, or the technique, can give us clues to meaning of the work. Naturalistic or "realistic" paintings can create a specific narrative of the sitter, while more abstract techniques can tell us about the emotional response the artist has toward the subject, or how they would like us to interpret the work.



AMSTERDAM

ALL
ACRYLICS

AMSTERDAM PORTRAIT SET – Portrait Project Outline “Create Your Own Self Portrait”

Materials

- Amsterdam Standard Acrylic Portrait Set (6 – (20ml or 120ml) tubes including:
 - 105 Titanium White
 - 224 Naples Yellow Red
 - 344 Caput Mortuum Violet
 - 227 Yellow Ochre
 - 408 Raw Umber
 - 409 Burnt Umber
- Van Gogh Mixed Media Paper
- Brushes
- Palette Knives
- Palette Pad
- Water cups (2) one for cleaning, one for mixing
- Paint rags or paper towels



There are many ways to create a portrait, this is a simple and direct way to use the basic elements of painting to make your own.

1. Take a Selfie (or go old school and use a mirror.)
2. Find the center of the paper by dividing it into four quadrants (this can be done by folding the paper.)
3. Choose a portrait from the examples provided as inspiration.
4. Create the shape of your head filling it in with a dark valued color.
5. With a lighter value color, paint the nose along the vertical center line, beginning at the center of the paper and going up.

Tips: Keep it simple (sometimes only a few brush strokes can say a lot) • Keep your brush clean, don't muddy your colors • Limit your palette using 3-6 colors • Be bold with color! • Use more than one brush for variety (or try a palette knife.) • Don't "draw" lines, "paint" marks and shapes that define forms • Be spontaneous, don't over think it • Don't paint for longer than 30 minutes, this will help you stay loose and focus on the whole painting.

6. Then add the mouth and chin below the nose.

7. In the middle of the top quadrant, draw two curved lines horizontally for the eyes (touching the bridge of the nose.)

8. Finish the inside of the eyes using two curved lines touching top to bottom of the inside of the eyelid. Add two small circles inside for the pupils.

9. Once you have the basic structure of the face, you can use color and mark making to express both your "exterior" and "inner" self.

10. Paint the background using a color that compliments the portrait.

11. HAVE FUN!