

► PORTRAITURE



Art Subject Portraits. A major subject for artists is people. When the artist renders a particular person whether it looks exactly like them or not, it is called a portrait. Portraits do more than reflect the features of a person. They try to show what the person is like. In order to do this, the artist chooses poses, clothing, or props that he or she feels gives a portrait of the person. Portraits do not always make the person look good. When a person does a portrait of himself or herself, it is called a self-portrait.

Before photography, artists were the picture takers. Artists were hired to paint portraits of people, their families and sometimes their pets. This was the only way for people to record what someone looked like, through art. And each artist would do it a little differently.

Teaching Notes: Pick a few students and ask the class (and them) what colors they would want in their portraits, what kind of people they are, what they would be doing in a portrait, etc. Show the portraits below and ask simple questions like, "Would you like to meet them?" "Do you think the artist liked them?" "Do they look important?" "What do you think is important to this person?"

Sample Projects:

- [Story of Frida Kahlo \(Kindergarten Art Lesson\)](#). Also available in [Spanish](#).
- [Elongated and Symmetrical Portrait \(2nd Grade Art Lesson\)](#).
- [Cardboard Portraits \(3rd Grade Art Lesson\)](#).
- [Frida Kahlo Portrait \(3rd Grade Art Lesson\)](#). Also available in [Spanish](#).
- [Kimmy Cantrell Inspired Clay Portraits \(3rd Grade Art Lesson\)](#).
- [Micrography Portrait \(5th Grade Art Lesson\)](#).
- Make a collage from a photograph of the student and cut out objects from magazines. You may also want to let the student include words that describe themselves. (Take photographs a week or so early so they'll have time to be printed. For added impact, print 5 x 7" prints.)
- Demonstrate the proper proportions for a human face and have the children practice drawing themselves or each other trying to use the proportions as a base.
- Have the children draw a portrait of themselves doing or holding or wearing something that says something unique or important about him or her.



Antonius Pius (Roman), 138AD.



Portrait, Campin (dutch) 1420



Nakamura UtaemonIII as Kyogoku, Takumi Hokushu (Japanese), 1825.



Self Portrait, Vigee-Lebrun, (French), 1871.



Faiyum Portrait and Faiyum Mummy, (Coptic Egyptian), 275 AD.



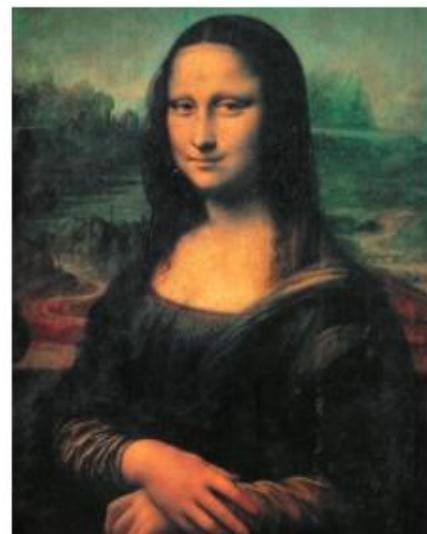
African Portrait, Cordier, (French), 1851.



Portrait, (Indian), 1627.



Portrait, 20thc.



Mona Lisa, Leonardo da Vinci, 1503.