

Expressive Self Portraits



Create 2 expressive Portraits

General Requirements for both portraits:

- You should spend a minimum of 4 hours on each piece.
- Use a different media on each portrait
- Each must have some kind of background- **DO NOT LEAVE IT EMPTY** or just do a simple gradient/fade; that's so Advanced Art... Instead, fill the area around the head/body with something that enhances the portrait: a texture (like wood grain or marble) or patterns (like zentangles), symbols (like birds or insects), architectural elements (like a doorway or a bridge), or anything else that helps the piece be more interesting
- Both must be from chest up with the face being the focal point with an emphasis on expression. More or less body showing is risky for a variety of reasons so if you want to crop in tight or show more of the figure, check with me first.
- Minimum size: 9"x12", Maximum size 18" x 24", but each can be a different size
- Only one can be black & white (either charcoal, graphite, pen & ink)
- One portrait should be monochromatic (one color mixed with black and white but be careful not to mix the color with grey!).

Portrait #1- The Artist's Selfie:



-Set up a large Mirror so that you can see yourself as you draw.

-You can include the edge of the mirror in the drawing, as well as your drawing board, pencil in your hand, etc.

-When you draw your face, be sure to “make a face” as you draw it, so that it is expressive- not static!

Portrait #2- Free Choice!

Thesecnd portrait is your choice. Here are several options but feel free to come up with your own ideas!

● Through the Looking Glass: A reflective self-portrait

-Draw a person reflected in a mirror or other reflective object or through glass.

-Consider representing how others might perceive that person.

●Divided or Fragmented Face:

-Divide a face into different sections and render each in a different style, color scheme, technique, etc.

-Consider using Exaggeration/ Distortion/ Overlapping/ Fragmentation

●Personality Mask(s):

-One portrait that portrays the “you” that you present to authority figures such as parents or teachers

-One portrait that represents the "real you"; the person that only a few of your closest friends may see

-One portrait that show's who you wish to be in the future, or that shows a different side of your personality

● I strongly recommend using exaggerated lighting with high contrast shadows and highlights. Have the light coming from below or the side.

●Consider using objects as symbols or incorporating props or accessories such as headphones, hats, books, umbrellas, etc.

●Consider WHERE the person is, choose an interesting physical environment or you could create an environment to fill up the negative space. Consider adding elements in the background that reflect the mood or personality of the model.

●Consider using costumes or makeup to help express personal identity.

Consider using an unusual point of view or angle. There is NOTHING more boring than a symmetrical view of some one looking blankly into the camera. Get CREATIVE with angle that your shoot from, especially if your model isn't very expressive.

●Try to show an extreme emotion through exaggerated facial expression. This isn't easy but if you take lots of photos, you might catch the perfect expression.

● Be creative with your drawing surface by using something other than paper or canvas. Combine found materials, newspaper, cardboard, or whatever (Chelsea used playing cards and puzzle pieces!) to invent a surface on which to draw or paint. Or use a non-traditional medium such as coffee or tea.

● Consider using unnatural colors, contrasting colors or exaggerated colors. Draw on colored paper (or black paper) and use the craziest colors at your disposal. However, remember that color has VALUE so use it to create contrast or it'll just look weird.

● Remember only ONE of your two portraits can be in Black & white. I know many of you like working in black and white and sometimes use it too often. I'm setting a limit here because you NEED color in the breadth section of your portfolio. You don't have to have a black and white portrait at all if you don't want to do so but if you love black and white, you're limited to only 1. sorry...

EXTRA CREDIT ALERT!

Drawing a hand in the portrait will be considered for extra credit IF the hand is well drawn. Awkward looking hands will not help you.