



Portraits

at the

Rahr-West
Art Museum
The Art Experience

William A. Bougeureau, *La Petit Boudeuse (The Little Pouter)*, Oil, 1888, Gift of Mrs. John D. West

Portraits in the Rahr-West Art Museum Collection

This lesson and activity introduced the concept of a portrait and has student discuss portraits and create their own self-portrait.

Target Grade Level

K-2

Objectives

- Students will examine several portraits and express their opinions on them.
- Students will create a self-portrait that expresses their individual interests.

Wisconsin Standards Addressed

- A.A.R.5.e Evaluate: Use learned art and design vocabulary to express individual opinion of a work.
- A.A.R.3.e Interpret: Use details and subject matter to interpret an artwork's mood or meaning.

- A.A.R.4.e Inquire: Determine the artist’s intent by identifying the details and subject matter.

Materials Needed

- *What is a Portrait* Video
- Portraits from the Rahr-West collection handout
- Paper and colored pencils or crayons.

Lesson Outline

1. Watch the *What is a Portrait* video and discuss what a portrait is.
2. Have the students examine the handout of portraits from the Rahr-West Art Museum’s collection and find a picture of someone they would like to be friends with.
 - a. Ask them why they chose this person to be friends with. What makes a good friend?
 - b. What would they do together?
 - c. Ask them who would be friends with one another on the sheet and why. Make sure to ask them what they see that makes them respond the way that they do.
3. Have students draw a self-portrait of and surround themselves with items that tell us about them.
 - a. Before they start have them plan out the following:
 - i. What clothes will they wear?
 - ii. What location will they be at?
 - iii. What items will surround them?

Extensions

- Have students research a person (either a historical figure or someone in their life) and do a thoughtful portrait of that person that tells the viewers about them.
- Have students create a non-objective, or completely abstract, self-portrait. Use the elements of art and principles of design to tell us things about them with only art vocabulary.
- Have students analyze people’s profile pictures on social media to see that they can learn about them. Have students create “selfies” that communicate at least three things about them through just the image.