

The History and Culture of Self Portraiture

Title: Self-Portraiture: A Genre

Grade/Age Level: High school

Time Frame: 1 Class (80 minutes*)

* AUSD classes are 80 minutes.

Description of lesson: Class will begin with a teacher facilitated group discussion answering questions about the purpose of images and photographs of ourselves. Teacher will present a slideshow about the history and cultural significance of the genre of self-portraits. Class will engage in a second discussion regarding the many modes of expression that a self-portrait reflect about the artist. Students will complete a worksheet to assess their understanding of lesson, and examine how artists convey different modes of expression.

CA Art Standards:

Prof.VA:Re7.1 : Hypothesize ways in which art influences perception and understanding of human experiences.

Acc.VA:Re7.2 : Evaluate the effectiveness of an image or images to influence ideas, feelings, and behaviors of specific audiences.

Acc.VA:Re8 : Identify types of contextual information useful in the process of constructing interpretations of an artwork or collection of works.

Objectives/Student Learning Outcomes:

I will be able to:

- Define a self portrait
- Describe various things that the artists may reflect in they self-portraits
- Examine self-portraits to determine the artist's intent
- Infer the mood of the individual in the self-portrait
- Identify symbolic images included in a self-portrait and analyze their purpose

Materials and Resources:***Art Materials***

- Computer
- Projector
- Worksheet
- Focus artwork handout

Instructional Resources

- Hansen, History of Art, Revised Fifth Edition, Volume II, Printed 1997
- Universal Principles of Depicting Oneself across the Centuries: From Renaissance Self-Portraits to Selfie-Photographs
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5318418/#B10>

Procedures:**Anticipatory Set**

Open with a full class discussion answering the following questions:

- What is the purpose of self depiction?
- What is the individual's idea behind creating a photograph or painting of oneself?

Direct Instruction

Slide show of History and Culture of The Self-Portrait

- First appearance of the self-portrait
- Society's role in propagating the genre
- Examples of work that highlight different aspects of self-expression
- Conclude with why artists paint them, and why it is important to society

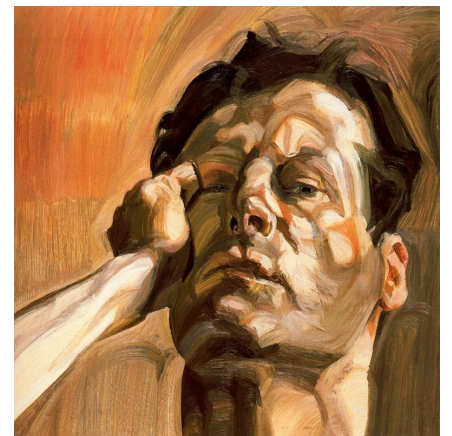
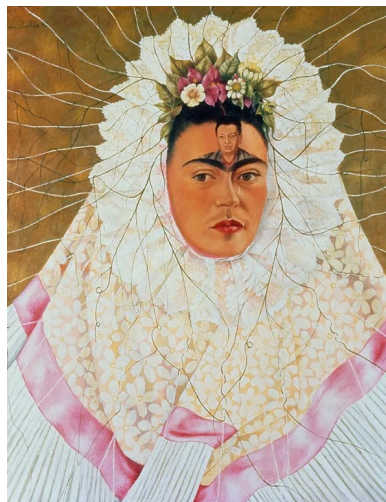
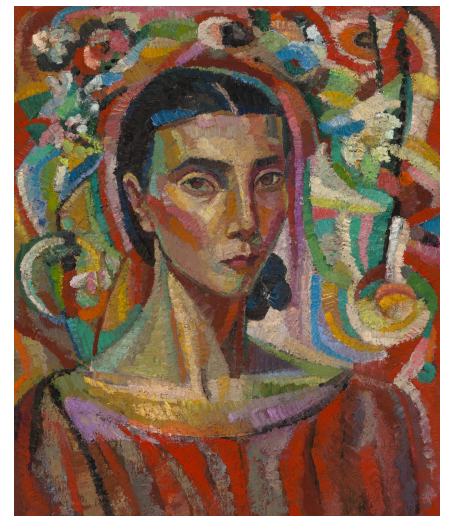
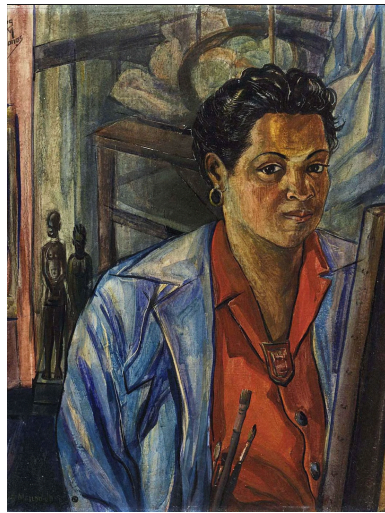
Guided Practice

Teacher facilitated group discussion and dialogue:

- Is a self-portrait the sum of its parts?
- Name and discuss what self-portraits can reveal about the artists

Independent Practice

- Provide students with a handout of the focus artworks
- Complete worksheet titled: History and Culture of Self-Portraits



Focus Artworks

Titles left to right, top to bottom:

1. *Self-Portrait with Two Flowers in her Raised Left Hand*, 1907
Paula Modersohn-Becker (1876-1907). Oil on Canvas

2. *Self-Portrait*, 1940
Loïs Mailou Jones (1905-1988). Casein on board

3. *Self-Portrait with Physalis*, 1912
Egon Schiele (1890-1918). Oil on canvas

4. *Self-Portrait as a Heel*, 1982
Jean-Michel Basquiat (1960-1988). Acrylic and oil stick on canvas

5. *Self-Portrait*, 1969
Francis Bacon (1909-1992). Oil on Canvas

6. *Self-portrait with floral tapestry*, 2018
Yvette Coppersmith (born 1980). Oil on Linen

7. *Self-Portrait with Thorn Necklace*, 1940
Frida Kahlo (1907-1954). Oil on canvas

8. *Self-Portrait as Tuhuana (Diego on My Mind)*, 1943
Frida Kahlo (1907-1954). Oil on Canvas

9. *The Man's Head Self-Portrait*, 1963
Lucian Freud (1922-2011). Oil on canvas

History and Culture of Self Portraits

Answer the following questions:

- 1. What is the definition of a Self-portrait?**

- 2. During the Renaissance Period, what role did society play in the popularity of self-portraits?**

- 3. Name 4 modes of expression that a self-portrait can reveal about the artist**

- 4. Choose one image from the focus artworks.**

Title:
Year:
Artist:

a.What is the artist trying to convey about themselves in the image?

b. What about the image supports your answer?

Accommodations and/or Modifications:

- **ELL, Hearing Impaired, Vision Impaired, Learning Disabilities, ADHD-** arrange seating for the slideshow so that students with special needs can be seated close to the front of the classroom. During discussions, teacher should repeat or clarify points made the students both to provide the class the opportunity to hear a statement again, as well as to help articulate what a student is trying to say and model how to say it. Students who need support during the independent practice will be paired with another student to discuss a chosen focus artwork and complete the worksheet.

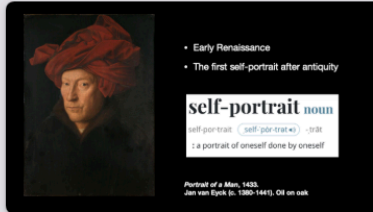
Vocabulary:

- **Self-Portrait** - A portrait of oneself done by oneself
- **Renaissance** - Revival; new birth
- **Renaissance Art** - The great revival of art and learning in Europe during the 14th, 15th, and 16th centuries
- **Baroque Art** - An ornate style of art characterized by high drama, rich colors, high contrast of light and dark, and conveyed movement during the 17th and early 18th centuries
- **Post-Impressionism** - the work or style of a varied group of late 19th-century and early 20th-century artists including Van Gogh, Gauguin, and Cézanne. They reacted against the naturalism of the impressionists to explore color, line, and form, and the emotional response of the artist, a concern which led to the development of expressionism.
- **Expressionism** - a style of art that began in 1905 in which the artist seeks to express emotional experience rather than impressions of the external world
- **Realism** - A style of art that begins in the mid 19th century that rejects imaginative idealization in favor of a close observation of outward appearances
- **Harlem Renaissance** - A blossoming of African American culture from 1918-1937 that embraced literary, musical, theatrical, and visual arts
- **Surrealism** - A 20th century movement which sought to release the creative potential of the unconscious mind, often resulting in illogical and dreamlike imagery
- **Neo-Expressionism** - Characterized by intense subjectivity and the rough emotional handling of materials and use of vivid colors
- **Contemporary Art** - Art made today by living artists

Slide Show: The History of Self-Portraiture



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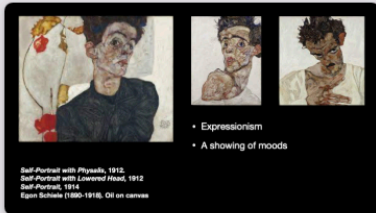
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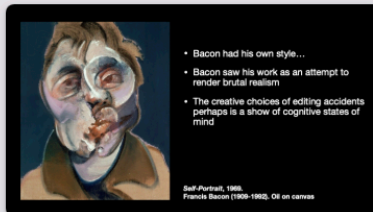
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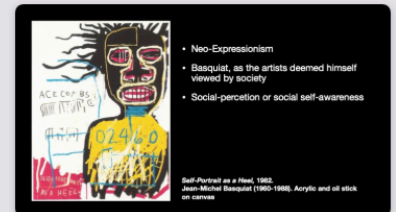
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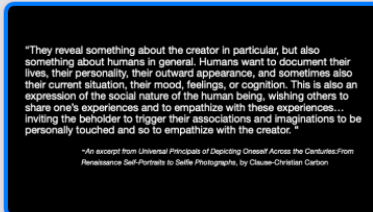
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*An excerpt from Universal Principles of Depicting Oneself Across the Centuries: From Renaissance Self-Portraits to Selfie Photographs, by Claude-Christian Carbon

Methods of Assessment:

	4	3	2	1
Writing	<p>Can express a definition of a self-portrait in your own words</p> <p>Can express the role of society in perpetuating self-portraiture in 3 or more original sentences</p> <p>Can name 5 or more things that a self-portrait can document</p>	<p>Can define what a self-portrait is</p> <p>Can express the role of society in perpetuating self-portraiture in 2 original sentences</p> <p>Can name 3-4 things that a self-portrait can document</p>	<p>Can somewhat describe what a self-portrait is</p> <p>Can express one way in which society played a role in perpetuating self-portraiture</p> <p>Can name 1-2 things that a self-portrait can document</p>	<p>Cannot describe what a self-portrait is</p> <p>Cannot express how society played a role in perpetuating self-portraiture</p> <p>Cannot name what a self-portrait can document</p>
Participation in Class Discussion	<p>Contributes frequently with well formed ideas and original thought</p> <p>Listens intently and responds showing an understanding of the progression of the discussion</p>	<p>Contributes frequently</p> <p>Ideas are on topic</p> <p>Listens actively and responds appropriately to peers</p>	<p>Contributes at least once</p> <p>Somewhat listens to the discussion</p> <p>Somewhat is able to follow the discussion</p>	<p>Does not contribute</p> <p>Is distracted and not listening to the discussion</p>