

Visual Arts Planning: Portraits

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Explore our collection of Cardboard and Paper resources.

The following resources on portraits and self-portraits provide an exciting opportunity for students to consider what sort of visual statements they can present about themselves.

These fun and inspiring projects cover a range of processes that aim to challenge preconceived ideas of what a portrait can be and to encourage learners to develop their creative skills through experimentation with a wide variety of media.

Tell us what you are planning to cover or explore this term in your school or institution and we'll recommend resources or learning approaches which we think might feed your teaching.

Contact us by [email](#).



Drawing Portraiture

Adapting AccessArt: Stories and Faces



[Children create layered portraits of](#)

people in a daycare centre inspired by the Exploring Identity pathway.

Life drawing for children



Children select their own props and take it in turns to model and draw.

Drawing cartoon characters



An exciting resource using life drawings to create cartoon characters.

MAKING PHYSICAL OR DIGITAL LAYERED PORTRAITS BY MIKE BARRETT



Artist Mike shares with us what inspires him, and how we can make our own, individual work, either digitally or physically.

Finger Palette Portraits



Using marks made by fingers and hands to approach portraiture, experimenting with pressure and sensitivity to mark making.

Drawing Cartoon characters



A school full of characters! In this workshop we explored capturing facial expressions through cartoon sketches.

Drawing faces



Using chalk and compressed charcoal and working quickly and rhythmically to create a pile of portrait studies.

Look up, Not down



Students draw each other keeping their

eyes on their partner and not looking at their drawing.

Portraits inspired by henri matisse



A resource that seeks to break down barriers of pre-conceived ideas of what a drawing should be.

Drawing portraits: A class celebration!



In this session, a group of teenagers explored drawing portraits of each other in pastel, on a large-scale.

Introduction to Portraits



Painter Hester Berry introduces some basic portrait drawing and painting concepts to primary-aged children and their teachers.

Spotting potential and nurturing talent



How do we react when a child responds to a task in a very different way to their peers?

Portrait Club



In this resource Jake Spice, demonstrates how portraiture can be brought into the classroom setting in a light-hearted and

flexible way.

Inspired by 18th Century portraits



Looking at drawing as a means to looking,
and as a means to capturing
representational interpretations of
paintings.

Printmaking and Sculpture

drypoint etching



Artist Maureen Crosby shares a simple and accessible printing process to enable children to make small, etched self-portraits.

Exploring Portraits



Artist Eleanor Somerset shows how to use mixed media and collaged drawings to

inspire a relief self-portrait in clay,
as well as a lino print.

Plinth People: Sculptural self portraits



Starting off with a balanced object that
can be manipulate and added to – enabling
the process of creating dynamic figures
that can stand independently.

Egg Box Gargoyles



[Illustrator Laura McKendry shows how to make inventive gargoyles using discarded egg boxes.](#)

Painting

Watercolour portrait



[Read an interview with a young artist, aged 12, who worked to build a watercolour painting of her friend.](#)

Backpainted Portraits



How to create portraits using an effective back painted technique. A great activity to explore less traditional portraiture methods.

Self-Portrait in Acrylic



This post shares the process of 11 year old girl as she paints an acrylic self-

portrait for a school project inspired by
Renaissance art.