

Art Explorers Self Portraits Grade 1

Objective: The students will learn what a portrait is and create their own self-portrait. The student will learn about portrait artist Mary Cassatt and about monochromatic color schemes.

Opening Discussion: Ask the Students What is Art? Art is human creativity that produces something that is valued for its beauty. Painting, sculpture, photographs, music, etc....show the students the posters. Ask the students what kind of Art they are looking at. Explain that they are Portrait Paintings. Ask the students what they think a portrait is. Tell them the definition and then go on to talk about what they see in the portraits. Next introduce Mary Cassatt by reading the book Getting to know the World's Greatest Artist Mary Cassatt.

Terminology: Portrait: a painting drawing or photograph of a person. Ask the students what they see in each of the posters. Who are the people, what are they doing, what are the people feeling, what might be in the letter etc..... Next introduce Mary Cassatt.

Additional Facts about Artist Mary Cassatt: Was born in Allegheny Pennsylvania in 1844. She studied art as a child and was one of the first women to study art in the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, and in the entire United States! At that time only men went on to further their education. This upset Mary and because of this Mary primarily painted only women and children. Mary loved painting their clothing and studied them playing and at other home activities. As Mary Cassatt grew older she grew blind and could no longer continue painting. How do you think Mary felt that she could no longer see to paint? Even though Mary lived a long time ago her paintings still sell for over \$4 million today.

Explain to the students that they are going to draw their own self -portrait using similar colors. Then begin talking about monochromatic colors.

The Project: The students will create their own self-portrait using monochromatic colors. Show the students an example of the finished project.

Monochromatic: All of the colors, tints, tones and shades of one particular hue (color). Demonstrate this by choosing three different colors of blue, or red markers. (Light blue, blue, dark blue). Ask the children to show you what the different shades are of green are using their crayons and markers.

Materials: Crayons
Markers

White Paper
Mirrors

Directions:

Art Explorer Instructor will have the students move their desks into groups of 4 or 5. The volunteer will assign each group a different color and distribute all of the shades of that color in markers and crayons to each group. The students can also use their own markers or crayons. The volunteer will then pass out white drawing paper and to all of the students. The students will share the mirrors.

The Volunteer will ask the students questions about the shapes on their face. What shapes are their heads (oval), neck (rectangle), nose (triangular) and move on through the rest of the facial features. Tell the students that they will be drawing themselves from the shoulders up. Ask the students what parts of their body this will include (shoulder, neck, chin, ears, mouth, nose, eyes, lashes, brows, forehead, hair etc.

The instructor will demonstrate on a piece of the paper drawing a self-portrait using all of the different shades of 1 color. Ex: The mouth should be a different shade than the eyes.... let the students know to use all of the shades of the color they were given.

Explain that the entire paper should be used up and that their self-portraits should be large and that even the background should be colored in or decorated. Refer to the example in the portfolio.

Clean up: The students can take their artwork home when finished. Clean up the markers and crayons and return all materials to the supply room.

