



the art of the selfie

THE SELF is what makes us unique and what distinguishes us from others, it goes beyond appearances and comes from our lived experience. When an artist makes a self-portrait, they are thinking about their identity, reflecting on who they are and how to present this to the world.

Selfies are not a new trend. As far back as the Middle Ages, artists would draw themselves as they wanted to be seen, not how they looked, like using a filter today.

How do you control your own image and how others see you – in selfies, for example, and on social media?

What clothes do you wear, how do you style your hair, what's your pose, where do you choose to photograph yourself, what objects do you surround yourself with?



look closely



As you explore the portraits in the gallery, imagine how you might perceive them if they were an image on your timeline.

What are your first impressions of the person in each portrait?

What is the overall mood of the self-portrait?

Is there anything else that strikes you about the portrait?

What do you think each artist is trying to say about themselves?

What questions would you like to ask the people you see in the portraits?

Write them down as you explore the galleries.

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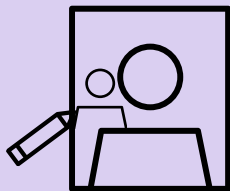
The galleries are filled with faces, explore them, and try your hand at portrait drawing.

Use the ideas below and fill the gallery.



Draw your own self portrait, think about objects that you might include that tell more about you.

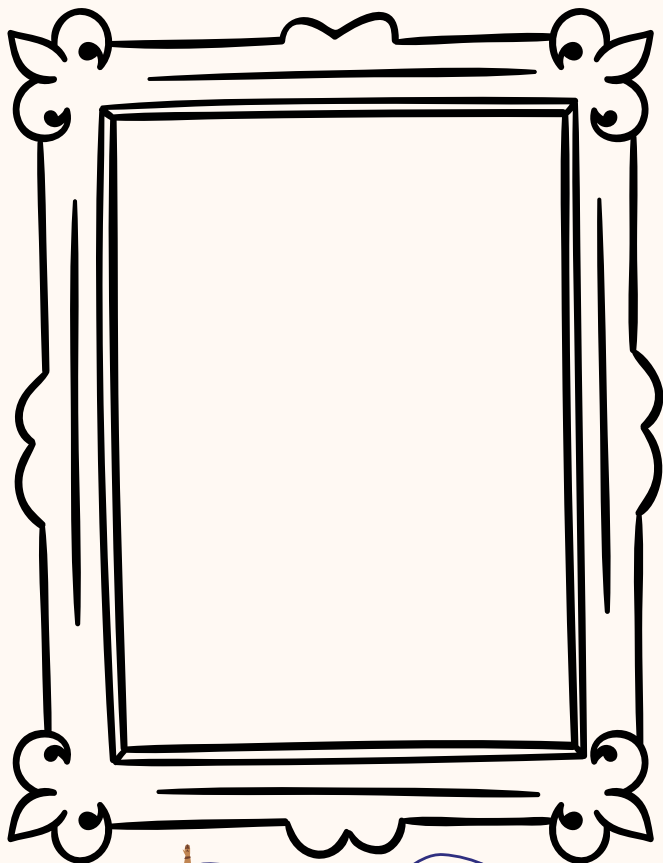
Choose a portrait. If you could step into the portrait, where would you like to be?



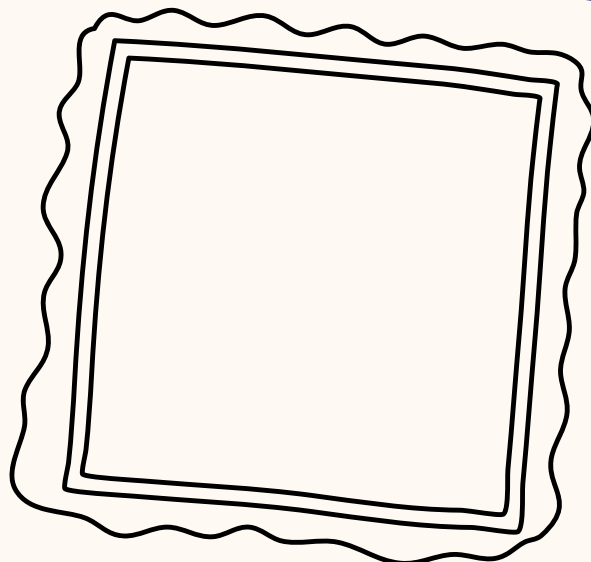
Who's portrait would you like to see in the museum?



Make a drawing of a portrait in one minute, and then try to finish the drawing using words instead of pictures. Wherever you would put a line, write what you see or feel. Use descriptive words, questions, or whatever comes to mind.



Use a viewfinder to experiment with composition! You could try diagonals, close ups, far aways, the edges.



Strike a pose! How does it make you feel?

