



kemperMUSEUM
of contemporary **art**

SCHOOL
TOUR
PROGRAM

Pre-Visit Learning
Activities

Fall
2017

The Outwin: American Portraiture Today

October 6, 2017 – January 7, 2018

BEFORE YOUR VISIT: Reading & Discussing Portraiture

Students participating in docent-led tours of *The Outwin: American Portraiture Today* at the Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art will have an opportunity to explore portraiture through interactive discussion in their tour groups.

Understanding key terms before the tour will help ready your students to look at, read, and discuss the portraits on the tour. On the pages following the terms below, two portraits have been selected with corresponding questions. Familiarizing your students with key terms and allowing for the practice of reading and discussing portraits will ensure that their tour of *The Outwin* is a productive and positive experience.

Key Terms

Portrait: A likeness or image of a person that is created by an artist

Self-Portrait: An image of the artist by the artist

Image: A picture of something or someone

Sitter/Subject: The person or people who are in a portrait

Pose: The way the subject's body is positioned in an artwork

Identity: How a person sees or thinks of herself or himself. Identity can also refer to how people represent themselves to each other

Symbol: Something representing something else by association; objects, characters, or other concrete representations of abstract ideas, concepts, or events

Other Terms

Museum label: A written explanation of an artwork (you will find it next to the artwork)

Drawing: A type of artwork made with dry materials, such as pencil, pen, charcoal, or oil pastels (a type of crayon)

Painting: A type of artwork made with wet materials, such as paint or watercolors

Print: A type of artwork in which ink is placed on a stamp that the artist creates and then is transferred to paper or other material

Photograph: An image, especially a positive print, recorded by a camera and reproduced on a photosensitive surface

Sculpture: The art of carving, modeling, welding, or otherwise producing figurative or abstract works of art in three dimensions.



Portrait #1: Questions for Discussion

1. What is the subject doing in the portrait?
2. Can you tell when or where the subject lived?
3. What clues do the objects and the clothing give you about the subject?
4. What does the subject's pose tell you about them?
5. What do you think the subject might be getting ready to say?

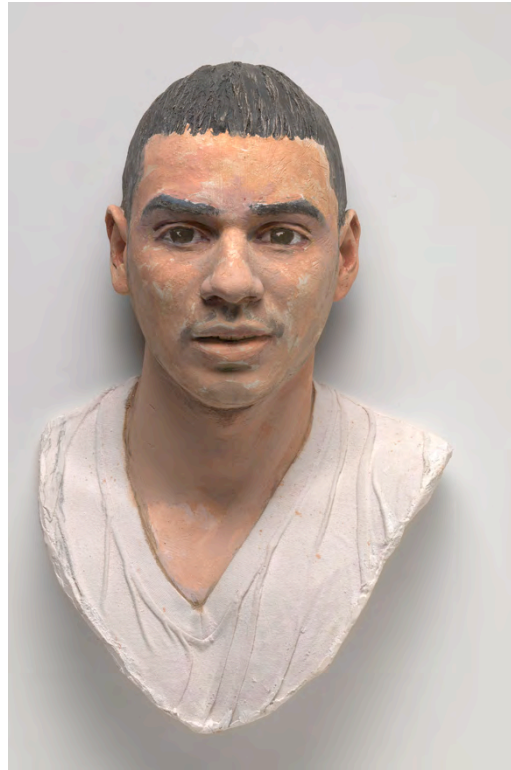
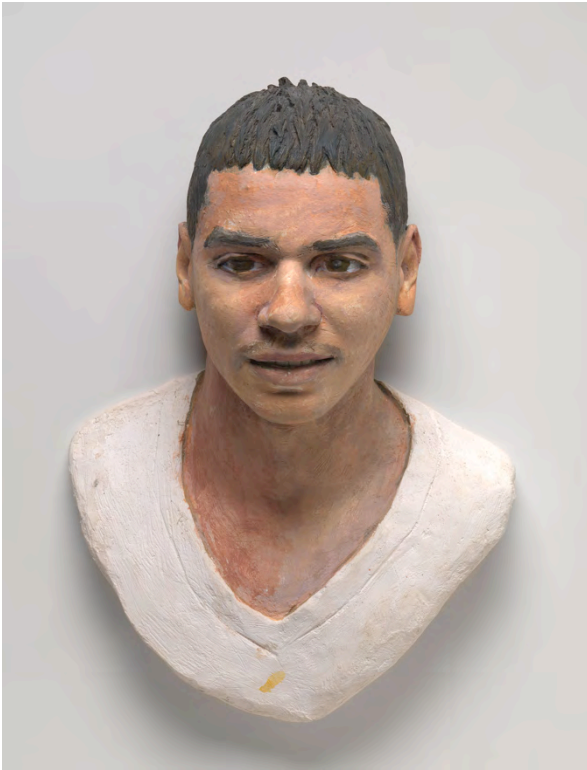
Amy Sherald

***Miss Everything, (Unsuppressed Deliverance)*, 2013.**

Oil on canvas

54 x 43 1/8 x 2 1/2 inches

Collection of Frances and Burton Reifler



Portrait #2: Questions for Discussion

1. How is this portrait different from Portrait #1?
2. Why do you think the artist chose to create a 3-dimensional portrait?
3. How are the two sculptures different from one another?
How are they similar?
4. Imagine you were able to "step inside" the subjects. What might the subjects be thinking about? What might they care about? What might they be feeling?
5. What do you wonder about this portrait? What questions would you like to ask the artist?

John Ahearn

The Rodriguez Twins, 2014

Acrylic paint over plaster (diptych)

Wall relief: 48.3 °— 35.6 °— 27.9cm (19 °— 14 °— 11")

Wall relief: 48.3 °— 30.5 °— 20.3cm (19 °— 12 °— 8")

Collection of the artist

Additional Resources

WEBSITES

How to Visit An Art Museum: Featuring Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=drrBd1bCiW0>

The Outwin: American Portraiture Today

<https://www.kemperart.org/exhibitions/outwin-american-portraiture-today>

Artsy for Education

Resources for Discovering and Learning about Art Online. Lesson #1: The Portrait

<https://www.artsy.net/article/theartgenomeproject-lesson-plan-number-1-the-portrait>

Teaching Tolerance

Art & Social Justice: What is a Portrait?

<http://www.tolerance.org/lesson/art-and-social-justice-what-portrait>

National Portrait Gallery

Classroom Resources

<http://npg.si.edu/teachers/classroom-resources>

Who Am I? Self-Portraits in Art & Writing

For Middle Schoolers, from the National Gallery of Art

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aPHKjVLix7M>

12 Creative Portrait Ideas for Kids

<http://www.hellowonderful.co/post/12-CREATIVE-SELF-PORTRAIT-ART-PROJECTS-FOR-KIDS>

The Art of the Selfie

PBS Digital Studios

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ontgK-zBfQ>

Portraiture Video

From Artsy Pants (Suitable for 3-5 grade)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aPHKjVLix7M>

If you have questions or need additional information, please email tours@kemperart.org or call 816-457-6137.

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