

# Activity: Three Styles of Portraits

- This lesson may be adapted and used for grades 4 through 12.
- The activities will take approximately three to five 45-minute class sessions to complete.
- Objective: Each student will create three portraits in various styles of painting including Cubism, Impressionism, and Surrealism.

## PASS Objectives Addressed:

### Grade 4- The Arts

**Standard 1: Language of Visual Art - The student will identify visual art terms (e.g., architecture, contour, medium, mixed media, perspective, symbol).**

1. Know how works of art are made with respect to the materials, media, techniques, and sources of ideas.
2. Describe and use the principles of design: rhythm, balance, contrast, movement, variety, center of interest (emphasis), and repetition in works of art.
3. Describe and use the elements of art: line, color, form, shape, texture, value (light and dark), and space in works of art.
4. Discuss observations of visual and expressive features seen in the environment (such as colors, textures, shapes).

**Standard 2: Visual Art History and Culture - The student will recognize the development of visual art from an historical and cultural perspective.**

3. Demonstrate a basic knowledge of several fields of art such as painting, sculpture, drawing, computer graphics, printmaking, architecture, and fiber arts.

**Standard 3: Visual Art Expression - The student will observe, select, and utilize a variety of ideas and subject matter in creating original works of art.**

1. Make original works of art using a variety of materials (media), and techniques (skills), and sources for ideas.
2. Use observation, memory and imagination in making original works of art.
3. Apply knowledge of a basic art vocabulary through experiences in making original works of art.

### High School- The Arts

**Standard 1: Language of Visual Art - The student will identify visual art terms (e.g., content, engraving, foreshortening, mosaic, perspective)**

1. Identify and apply knowledge of the principles of design: rhythm, balance (symmetrical, asymmetrical, radial) contrast, movement, variety, center of interest (emphasis), and repetition in personal artwork, and the artwork of others.
2. Identify and apply the elements of art: line, color, form, shape, texture, value (light and dark), and space in works of art. Discriminate between types of shape (geometric and organic), colors (primary, secondary, complementary, intermediates, neutrals, tints, tones, shades, and values), lines (characteristics, quality), textures (tactile and visual), and space (background, middleground, foreground, placement, one-, two-, and three-point perspective, overlap, negative, positive, size, color) in personal artwork, and the art work of others.

**Standard 3: Visual Art Expression - The student will observe, select, and utilize a variety of ideas and subject matter in creating original works of art.**

1. Create original two- and three-dimensional works of art from observation, memory and imagination using a variety of art media

3. Develop and apply skills and techniques using a variety of art media, and processes in making two- and three-dimensional works of art:

Drawing media: pencils, colored pencils, markers, chalks, crayons, oil-pastels. processes: sketching, contour line, hatching, crosshatching, stippling, rendering, shading.

Painting: media: tempera, watercolor, oil, and acrylic. processes: wet-on-wet, wet-on-dry, wash, resist, sponge..

**Standard 4: Visual Art Appreciation - The student will appreciate visual art as a vehicle of human expression.**

2. Demonstrate respect for their work and the work of others.

**Part 1: Identify**

Cubism

A twentieth-century art movement begun in the 1900s, in which subject matter is broken up or separated into cubes and other geometric shapes. These artists rejected the use of proportion and emphasized the flatness of the painted subject and subjects are sometimes shown from several viewpoints at the same time. Noted artists include Pablo Picasso and Georges Braque.

Impressionism

A style of painting started in France in the 1860s. This style of art emphasized the effect of sunlight on objects and used small dabs of paint that are blended in the viewer's eyes to imitate reflected light. Noted artists include Edgar Degas, Pierre Auguste Renoir, Mary Cassatt and Claude Monet.

Surrealism

Surrealism is 20th century style of painting. Surrealism uses visual imagery from the subconscious mind (or a dreamlike state) to create art without the intention of logical clarity. Noted Surrealist artists include André Breton René Magritte Salvador Dali.

**Part 2: Explore**

Introduce the students to the styles and artists above through library and internet research.

Discuss the backgrounds of the various styles and compare and contrast the imagery. Ask students to identify similarities and difference.

**Part 3: Create**

1. Have the students find a portrait photograph from a magazine or other resource.

2. Pass out three sheets of drawing paper to each student. Any size paper will work as long as all three sheets are the same size.

3. Using the medium of choice, instruct the students to draw/paint a picture of their chosen photo using the style of Cubism.

- Point out the characteristics of Cubism, including:
  - Deconstructed objects rearranged on the canvas
  - Flattened space
  - The appearance of three-dimensional shapes on a two-dimensional surface
  - Depicts multiple angles
  - Hard edges
- 4. Once the Cubist portrait is completed, instruct the students to draw/paint a picture of their chosen photo using the style of Impressionism.
  - Point out the characteristics of Impressionism, including:
    - Visible brush strokes
    - Light colors
    - Unusual visual angles
    - Vivid overall effects rather than details
    - Many colors used to depict shimmering sunlight or water
    - Sometimes looks blurry/lots of blending
- 5. Once the Impressionist portrait is completed, instruct the students to draw/paint a picture of their chosen photo using the style of Surrealism.
  - Point out the characteristics of Surrealism, including:
    - Depictions of a dream-like world painted with great detail (presents a false reality)
    - The incorporation of chance and spontaneity in the subject matter
    - Emphasis on mystery and mythology in an effort to make art ambiguous and strange
    - Changing an object's size
    - Depicting transparency
    - Depicting something floating or levitating

#### **Part 4: Analyze**

Once all three portraits are complete, use the information at the following links to analyze and assess the final product. The students should exhibit a greater understanding of all three styles of painting.

[Formal Visual Analysis: The Elements & Principles of Composition](#)  
[Teaching Students to Critique](#)  
[Art Critiques Made Easy](#)

