

VISIBILITY

DALLAS
MUSEUM
OF ART

Students look closely at portraits and think about what you can see, what you can't see, and what you can or cannot know about a person based on first impressions. Students will challenge their assumptions and consider stereotypes.

THIS WORKS WELL WITH

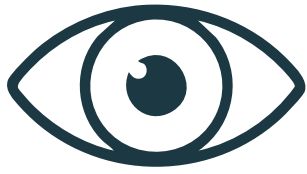
Portraits, or works of art that show a representation of a person, on any floor of the museum.

SUGGESTED WORKS OF ART

- *Portrait of a Woman in a Blue Turban*, about 1827, Eugène Delacroix, **Level 2**
- *Plaque with Single Figure*, 16th–17th century, Edo peoples, Benin City, Nigeria, **Level 3**
- *Portrait of My Mother*, 1927–1946, Philip Evergood, **Level 4**
- *Portrait of a Woman*, about 1790, Christian Amandus Gullager, **Level 4**

GUIDING QUESTIONS

- What is a portrait? What is the difference between a portrait and a self-portrait?
- What can you tell about this person based on their portrait?
- What are five words you would use to describe this person?
 - » Turn to a partner and share your words. How are they similar? How are they different?
- How might your own assumptions or experiences influence who you imagine this person to be? Discuss as a group.
- Invite students to look at the labels that accompany their portraits. How did their assumptions match the information shared in the label? How were they different?



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MATERIALS

- Paper
- Pencils

ACTIVITY (10–20 minutes)

1. Pass out paper and pencils.
Invite students to draw a self-portrait.
2. After their self-portraits are completed, ask students to write the things about themselves that are important that could not be conveyed in their first drawing. For example, their families, pets, heritage, personality traits, friends, and meaningful moments.
3. Invite students to consider which version of their self-portrait they would want to share with others? The first version or the second version with their added words.
4. Is it important to know more about people before we make assumptions about them?
5. What do people think they know about you just from looking?
Are their assumptions correct or incorrect? How does it feel when people act like they know things about you just by looking?