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# Module 3: Performing People Theme 3A: Portraits

Prepared by Bath Spa University

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# Theme 3A Focus: Portraits

Theme 3A Learning Activities explore the self and identity through:

- ▶ **Visual Art:**

Research and create portraits which express personal and cultural identity across diverse times, places and contexts.

- ▶ **Literacy:**

Use portraits as a focus for investigating and discussing meanings of visual image and identity in historical and contemporary settings.

- ▶ **Performance:**

Develop expressive performance within Theme 3C.

# All Levels Introduction: Global Portraits

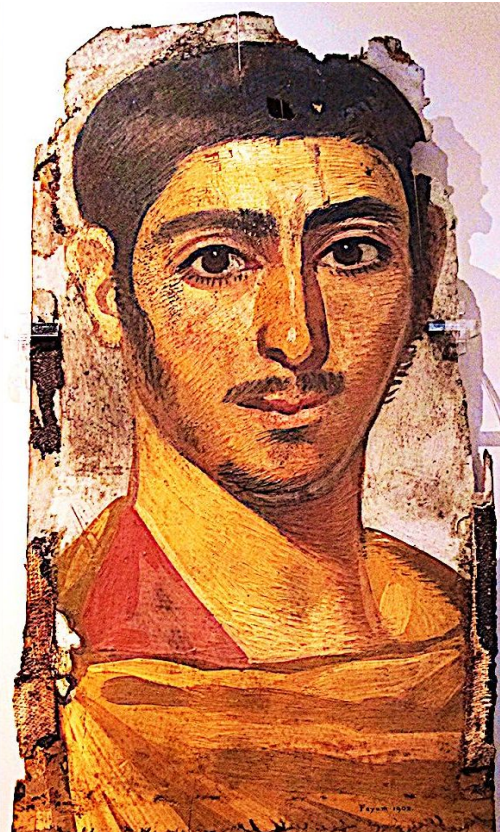
- ▶ Humans across different times, places and contexts created images of themselves and others, expressing feelings about themselves and the world they live in.
- ▶ What is distinctive about these portraits? What do you learn about the people in them?



Egyptian woman 1000BC  
Photographs: June Bianchi



Syrian woman 100AD



Roman man 200AD.



Indian man 19C.

# All Levels Introduction: Global Portraits

- ▶ What is distinctive about these portraits?
- ▶ What do you learn about the people in them?
- ▶ Which portrait style do you like and why?



Greek pot 500AD.  
3 Photographs: June Bianchi



Madonna & Child 15C.



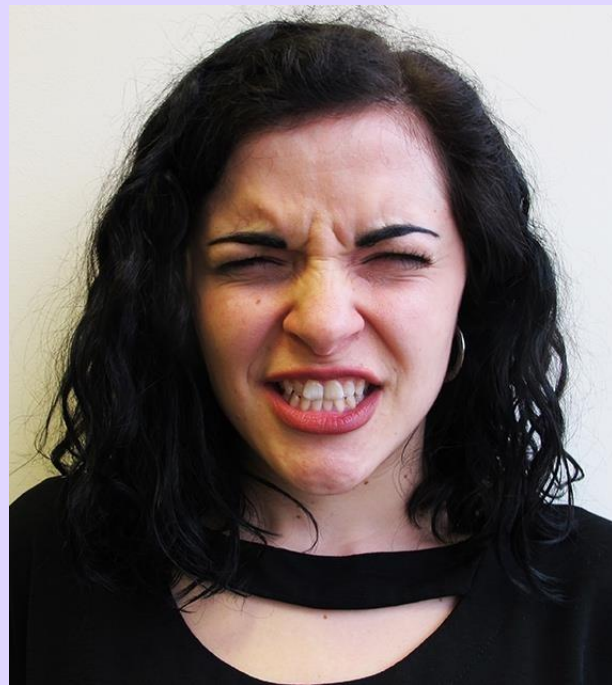
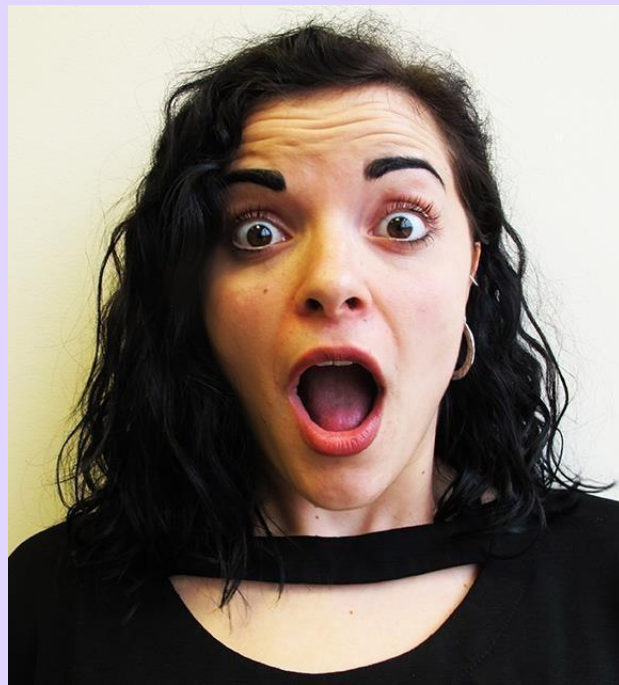
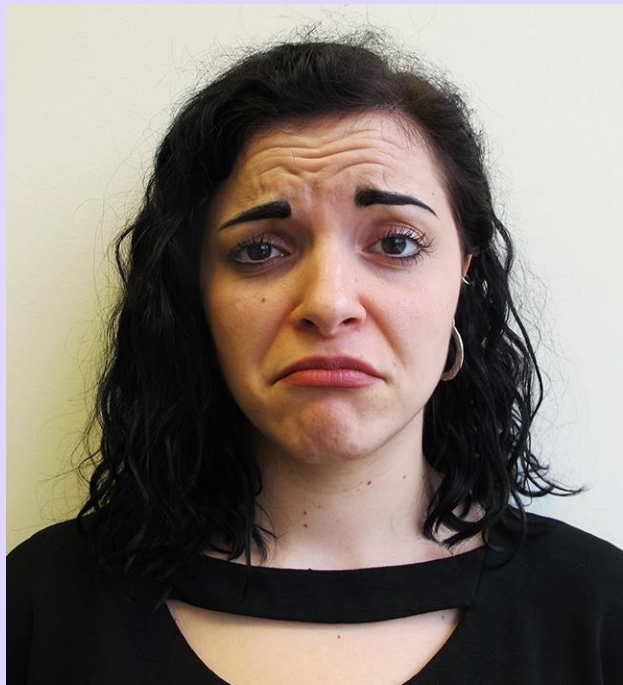
Korean Jangseungs 18C.



Japanese woman 17C.  
Toyohara Kunichika. Rawpixel CCBY  
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# All Levels: Expressive Faces.

- ▶ We all make faces to express our feelings.
- ▶ Make these faces and see how it feels.
- ▶ What are these faces expressing?



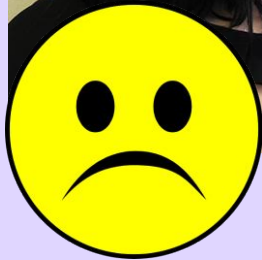
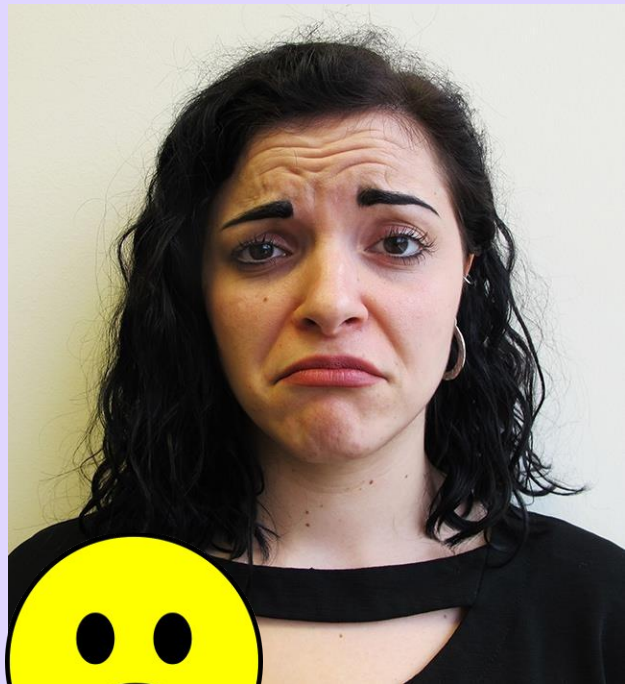
(Photographs: June Bianchi)

# All Levels: Expressive Faces

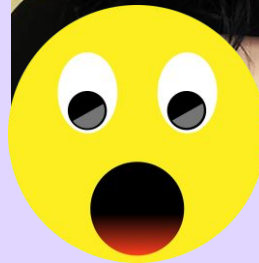
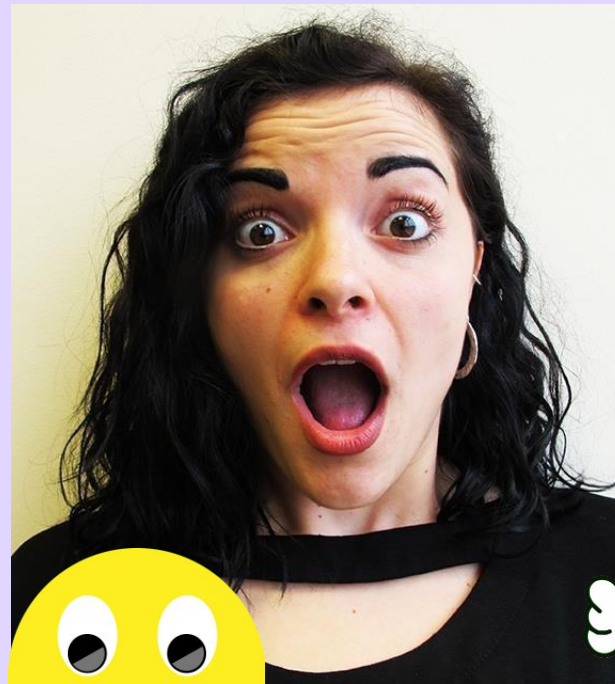
- ▶ Did you guess correctly? What were the facial clues?
- ▶ How accurate are the Emojis?
- ▶ Take photographs of yourself & others making different expressive faces.
- ▶ Guess each others' faces - find the Emoji - or design one.



HAPPY



SAD



SURPRISED



ANGRY

# Level 1 Learning Activities: Expressive Line Brush Portrait

- ▶ Expressive Line *Happy Portrait* using ink & brush - inspired by Japanese artist Hokusai.



Hokusai, 4 Faces, 18-19C. CCPD  
[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Brooklyn Museum - Sketch of Four Faces - Katsushika Hokusai.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Brooklyn_Museum_-_Sketch_of_Four_Faces_-_Katsushika_Hokusai.jpg)

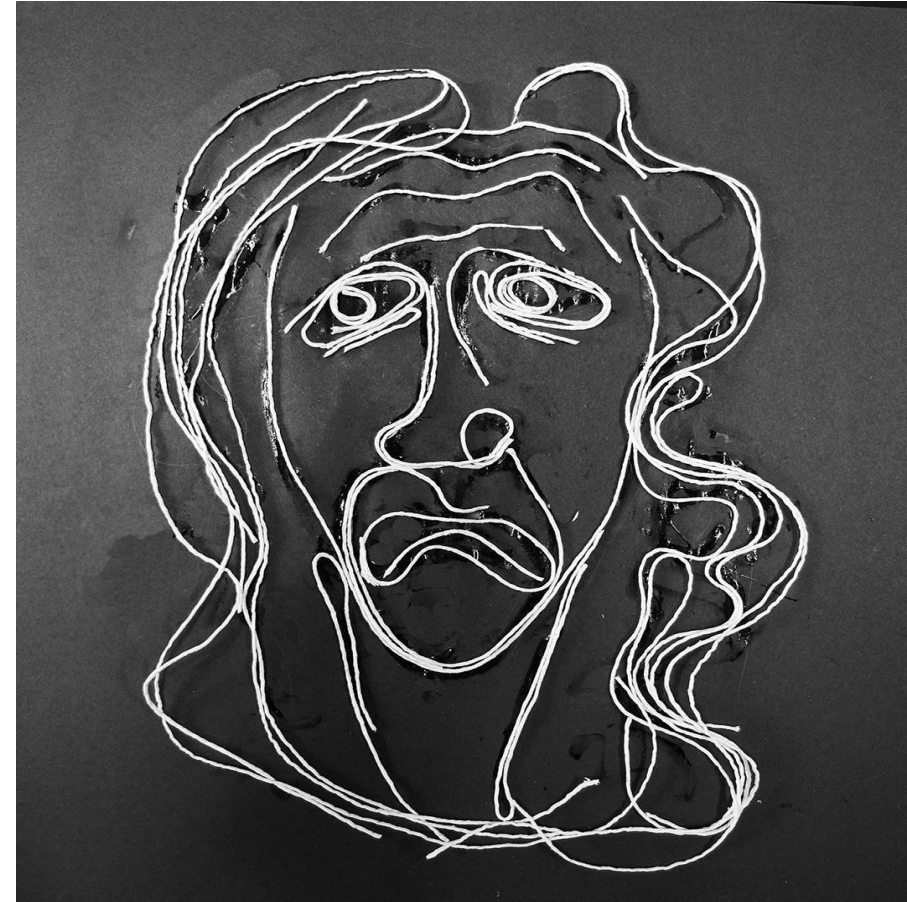
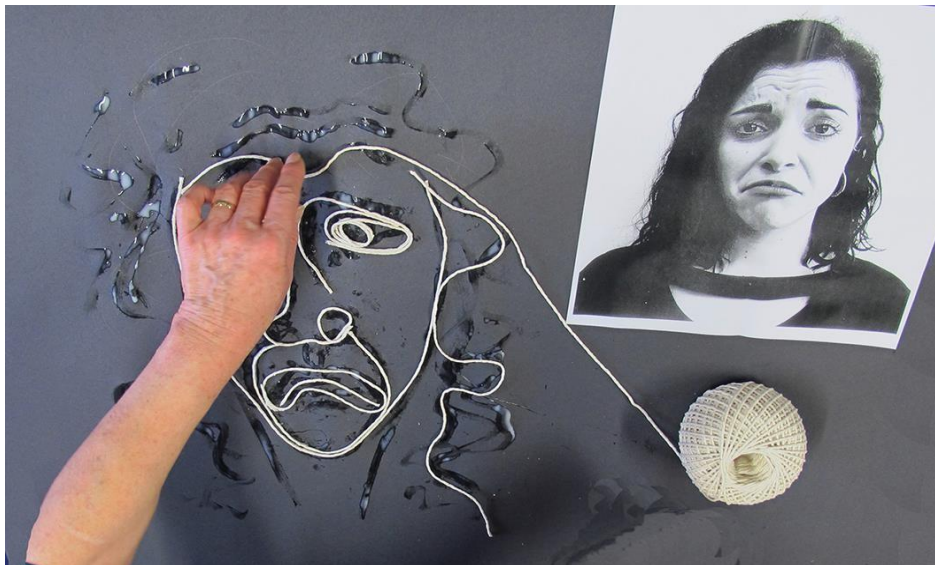
Hokusai website:  
<https://www.katsushikahokusai.org/>



**Brush Portrait Resources:**  
paper, ink/paint, brush  
(Artwork & Photographs: June Bianchi)

# Level 2 Learning Activities: Expressive Line String Portrait

- ▶ Expressive Line *Sad Portrait* - drawn with string.



## **String Portrait Resources:**

*paper, glue, string, brush, scissors.*

- Paint lines of face with glue & add string.  
(Artwork & Photographs: June Bianchi)



# Level 3 Learning Activities: Expressive Line Wire Portrait

- ▶ Expressive Line *Happy/Sad* Portrait - wire mobile sculpture inspired by Alexander Calder



Portrait of Giovanni Carandente 1920,  
CC BY-SA3.0

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Alexander\\_Calder,\\_Ritratto\\_di\\_Giovanni\\_Carandente.\\_Museo\\_Carandente.Spoleto.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Alexander_Calder,_Ritratto_di_Giovanni_Carandente._Museo_Carandente.Spoleto.jpg)

Alexander Calder: portrait mobiles

<http://www.calder.org/work/by-category/wire-sculpture>

## **Wire Mobile Portrait Resources:**

*line drawing design, wire, pliers, wire cutters.*

- Bend wire by hand & with pliers using drawing as a template.  
(Artwork & Photographs: June Bianchi)

## Level 3 Learning Activities: Expressive Line Wire Portrait



- Bend wire with hands & pliers to add different layers & dimensions
- Hang **Happy/Sad Portrait Mobile** using lighting to create shadows.  
(Artwork & Photographs: June Bianchi)

# Levels 1 & 2: Expressive Colour Portraits

- ▶ Artists use colour and shape to create expressive portraits.
- ▶ How have artists used colour and shape in these portraits?



Paul Klee *Senecio*, 1922. CCPD  
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Senecio2.JPG>



Pixabay Colourful Girl Face CCPD  
<https://pixabay.com/en/girl-face-colorful-colors-artistic-2696947/>



Yoyoi Kusama, Japanese artist. CC BY4.0  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yayoi\\_Kusama#/media/File:Yayoi\\_Kusama\\_cropped\\_1\\_Yayoi\\_Kusama\\_201611.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yayoi_Kusama#/media/File:Yayoi_Kusama_cropped_1_Yayoi_Kusama_201611.jpg)

# Levels 1 & 2 Learning Activities: Expressive Colour Portrait

- ▶ Expressive Colour *Surprised Portrait* using coloured tissue-paper collage



*Surprised Face Resources: tissue-paper, glue, brush, scissors.*

- Tear/cut tissue paper & glue to paper.
- What colours & shapes would you use for the **Angry Face**? Try making other faces.

(Artwork &  
Photographs:  
June Bianchi)

# Level 3: Expressive Colour Portraits

Angélica Dass *Humanæ Project* (2019 ongoing): a collection of portraits revealing the diverse beauty of human skin colours. *Humanæ* challenges misconceptions and stereotypes about race (which is a social construction: biologically share all humans over 99% the same DNA!) and celebrates our uniqueness. (Photographs: June Bianchi @ Migration Museum)



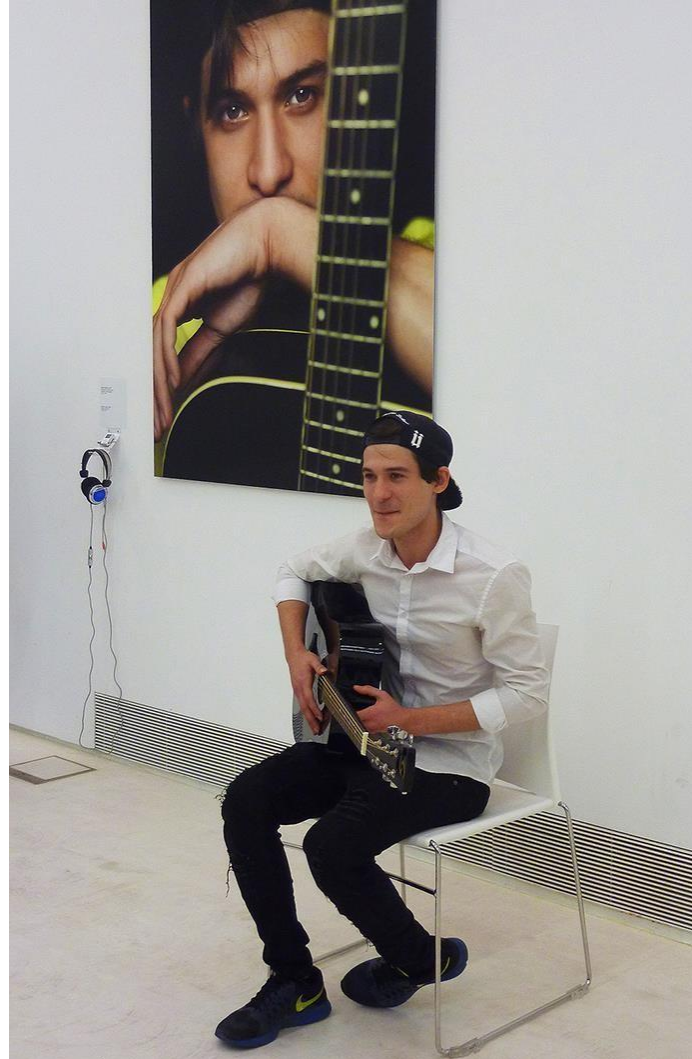
- ▶ How has the artist used Pantone colours to explore and celebrate human diversity?
- ▶ Contact <https://angelicadass.com/photography/humanae/>

to create your own DIY *Humanæ* self-portraits.

# Levels 2 & 3: Identity Portraits



Portraits Ioannis Vastardis : *John* (Zimbabwe)  
Photographs: June Bianchi

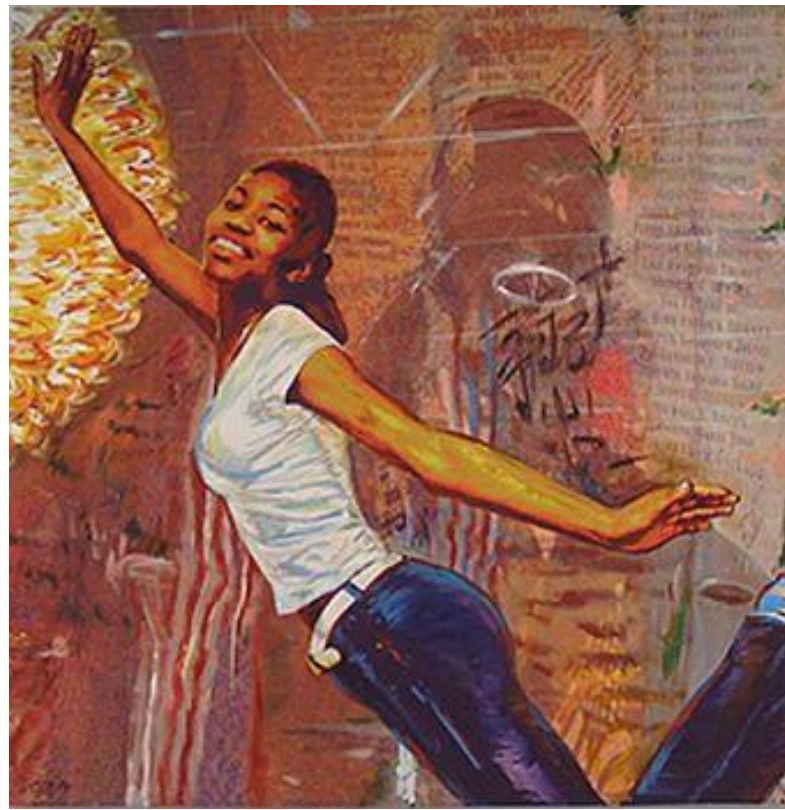
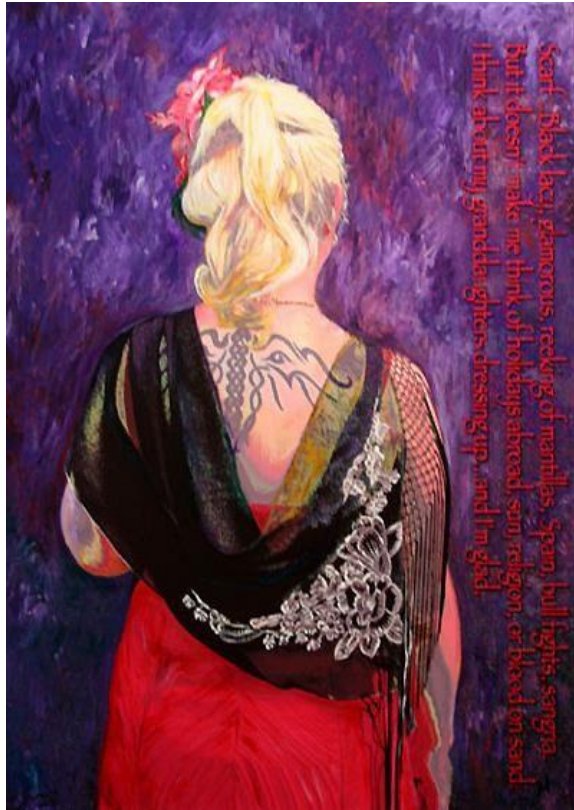


*Amin* (Iran)

- ▶ **Face Forward...into my home** interactive art project explores the stories of people who have been forced to leave their homelands and are rebuilding their life in Greece.
- ▶ It includes storytelling and a photography exhibition by **Ioannis Vastardis** with refugees and asylum-seekers, now living in Greece.  
<http://www.faceforward.gr/en/>
- ▶ **Resources: Use phones/cameras to take photographs depicting your image of yourself.**

# Level 3: Identity Portraits

- ▶ Artist June Bianchi worked with her subjects to express their identities.
- ▶ How do they display their identity in these portraits? How important is dress, pose, venue?
- ▶ How would you express your identity?



*Spanish Scarf (UK)*

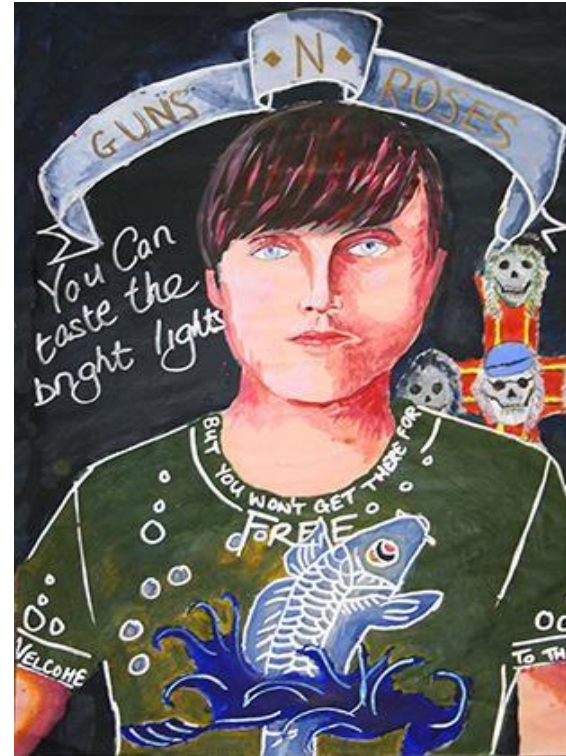
*Supersize your Seconds (USA)*

*Harlem Boys (USA)* June Bianchi: Digital/paintings on canvas 2008

# Level 3 Learning Activities: Identity Self-Portrait

- ▶ These young people created self-portrait paintings which expressed their identity.
- ▶ They include their favourite clothes, hairstyles, colours and music. What would you include?
- ▶ **Resources:** Use paint, paper, canvas, photography, pens, crayons to create your own self-portrait expressing your identity.

(Photographs: June Bianchi)





# All Levels Learning Activities: Identity Collage

- ▶ Young people create group collages to express aspects of their identity.
- ▶ **Resources:** Use newspapers, magazines, scrap materials to create a group collage to express your style, ideas and beliefs. Include text & images.

(Photographs: June Bianchi)



# Further Learning Resources

- ▶ Tate UK Portraits in Art

<https://www.tate.org.uk/art/art-terms/p/portrait>

- ▶ MOMA Modern Portraits

[https://www.moma.org/learn/moma\\_learning/themes/what-is-modern-art/modern-portraits/](https://www.moma.org/learn/moma_learning/themes/what-is-modern-art/modern-portraits/)

- ▶ British Museum: Identity Resources

<https://www.britishmuseum.org/docs/07%20Identity%20FINAL.doc>

- ▶ Face Forward into My Home

<http://www.faceforward.gr/en/>