Module 3:
Performing People
Theme 3A:
Portraits

Prepared by Bath Spa University

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.
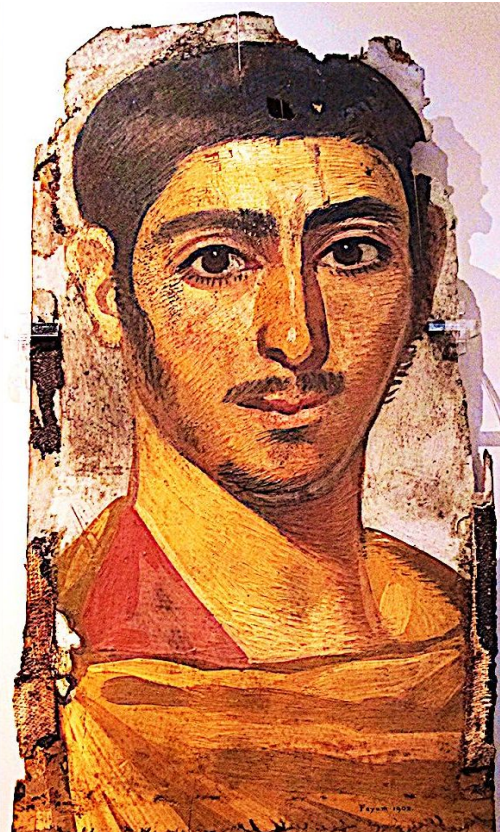
All Levels Introduction: Global Portraits

▸ 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?

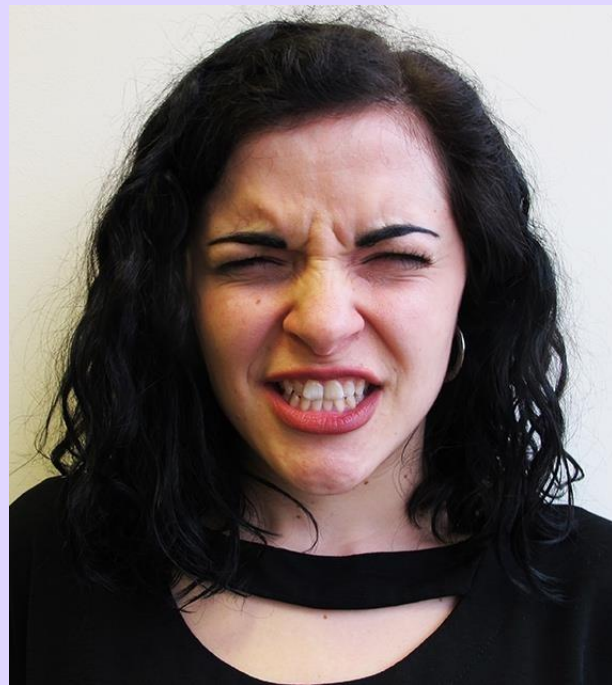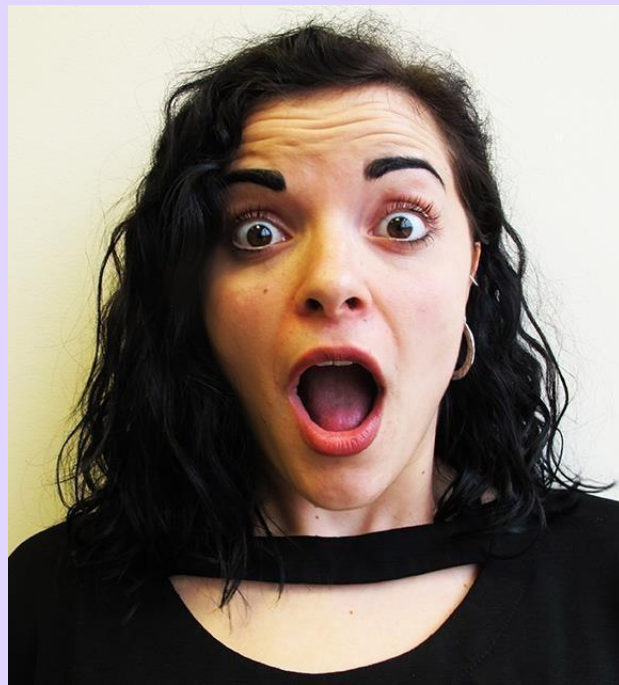Greek pot 500AD.
3 Photographs: June Bianchi

Madonna & Child 15C.
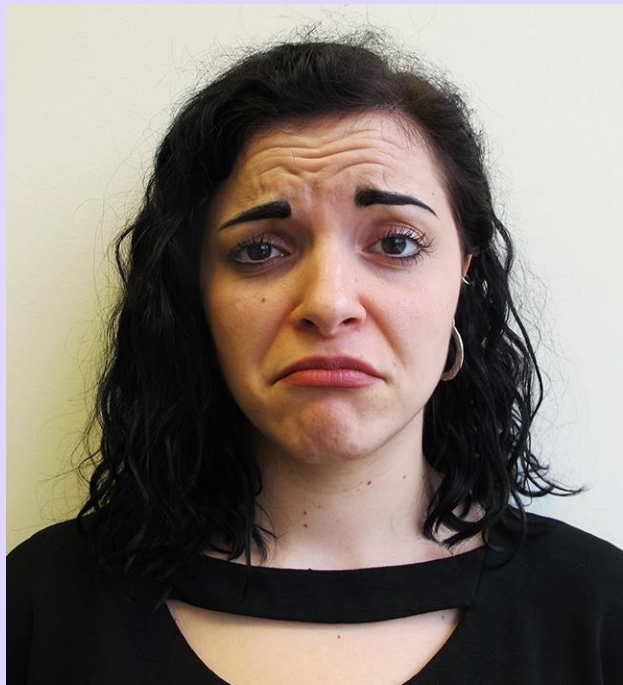
Korean Jangseungs 18C.

Japanese woman 17C.

All Levels: Expressive Faces.

▸ We all make faces to express our feelings.

▸ Make these faces and see how it feels.
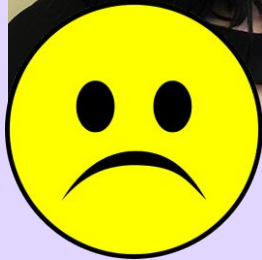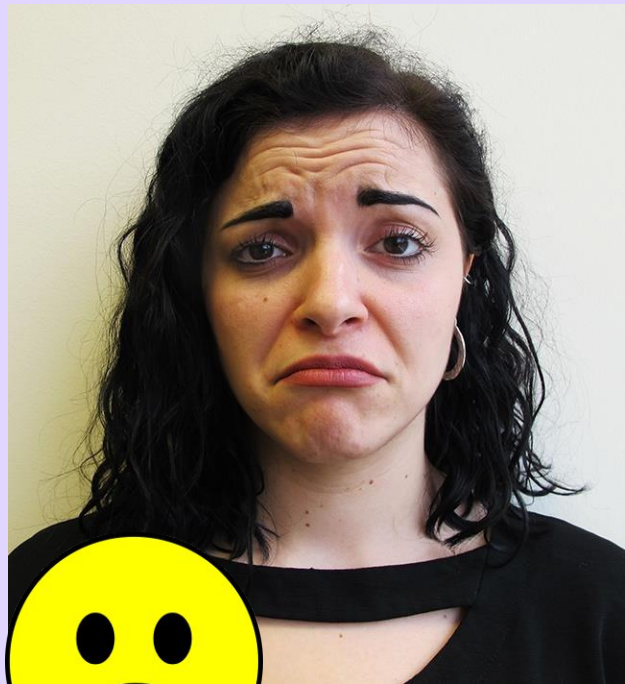
▸ What are these faces expressing?

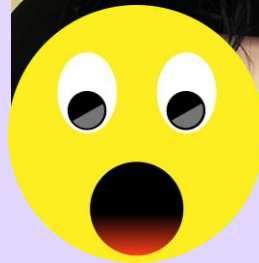

(Photographs: June Bianchi)

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
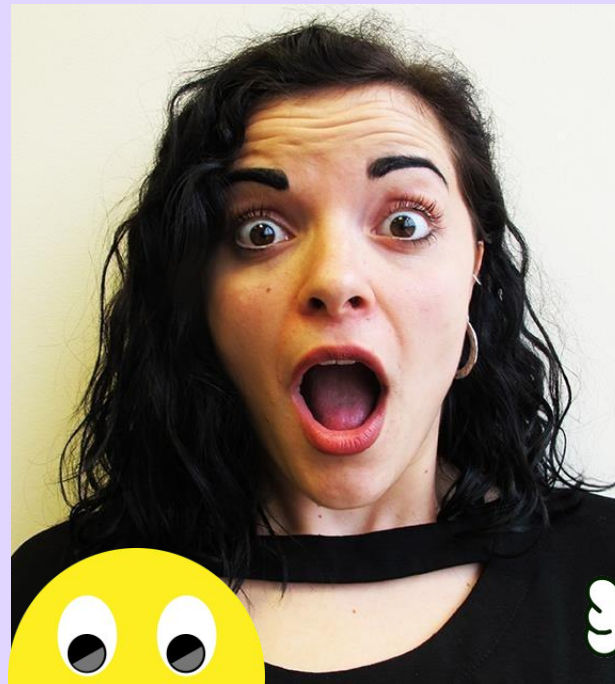
SURPRISED

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

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

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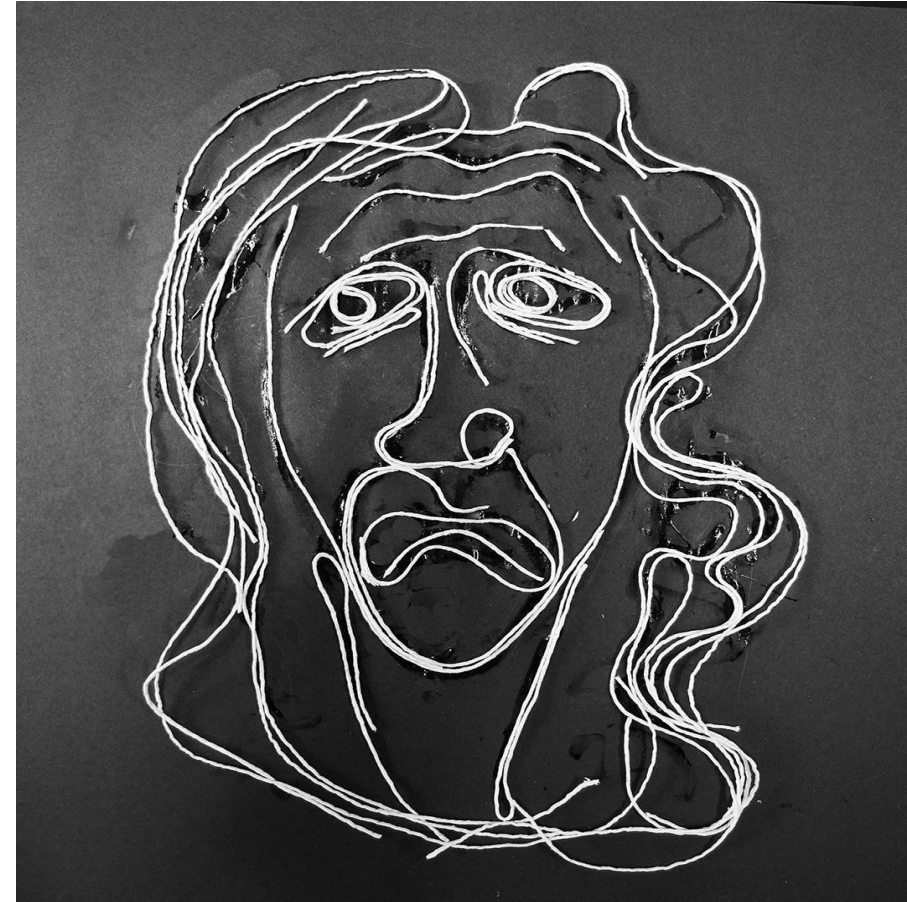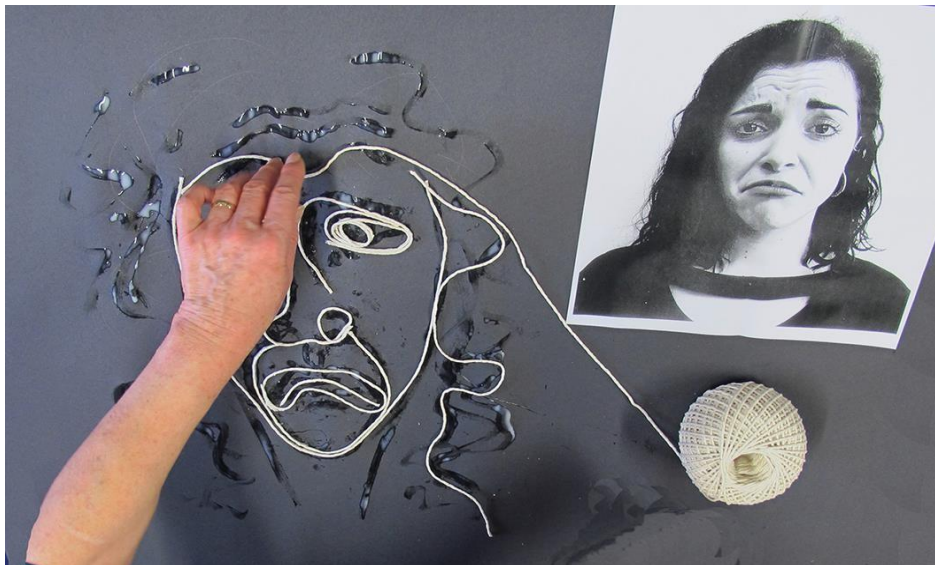(Artwork & Photographs: June Bianchi)

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

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 & plyers 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:Se_necio2.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

Levels 1 & 2 Learning Activities: Expressive Colour Portrait

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

(Artwork & Photographs: June Bianchi)

***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.

Level 3: Expressive Colour Portraits

Anglica 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 all humans share over 99% of 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?**

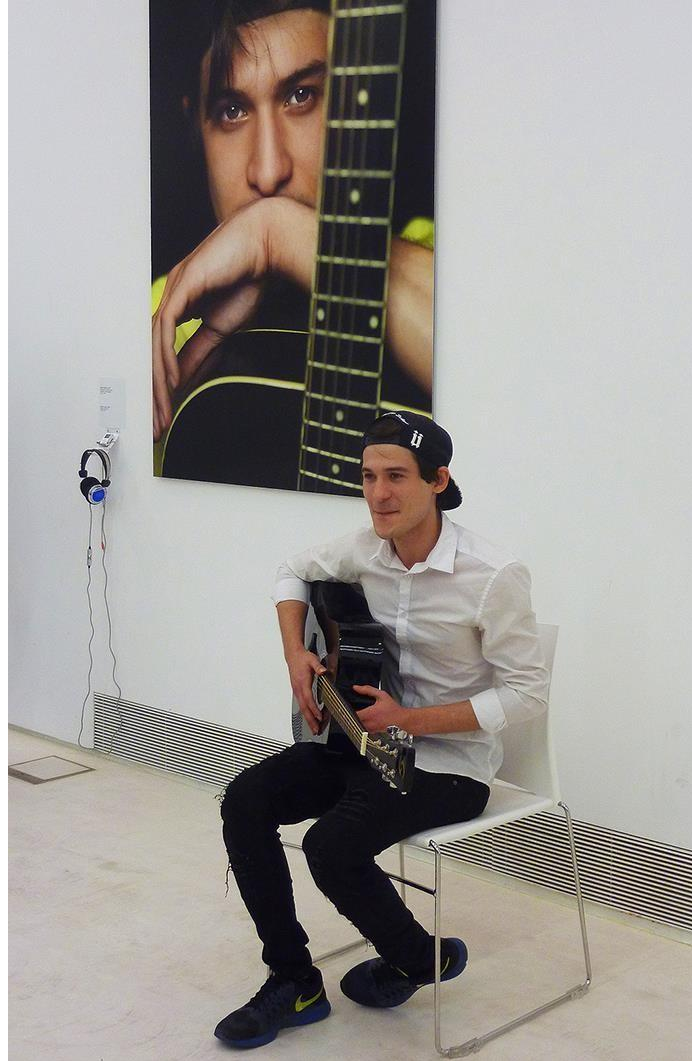▸ **Contact https://angelicadass.com/photography/humanae/**

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?
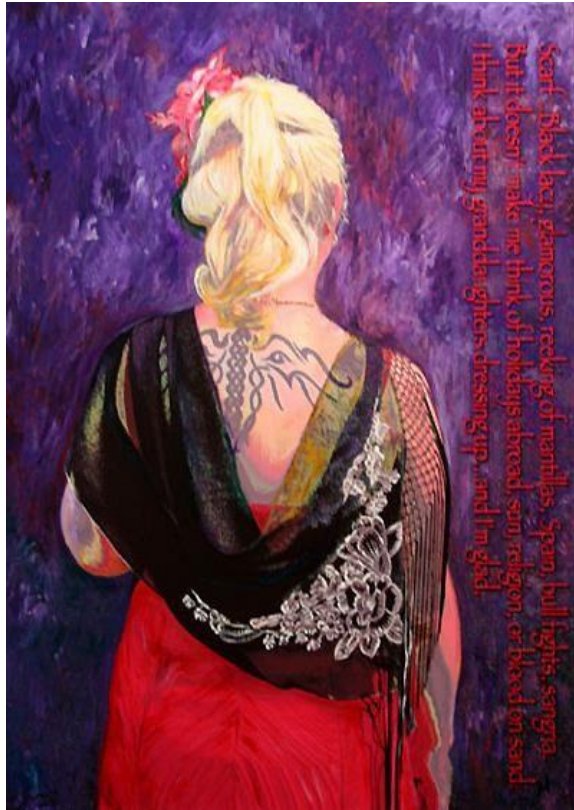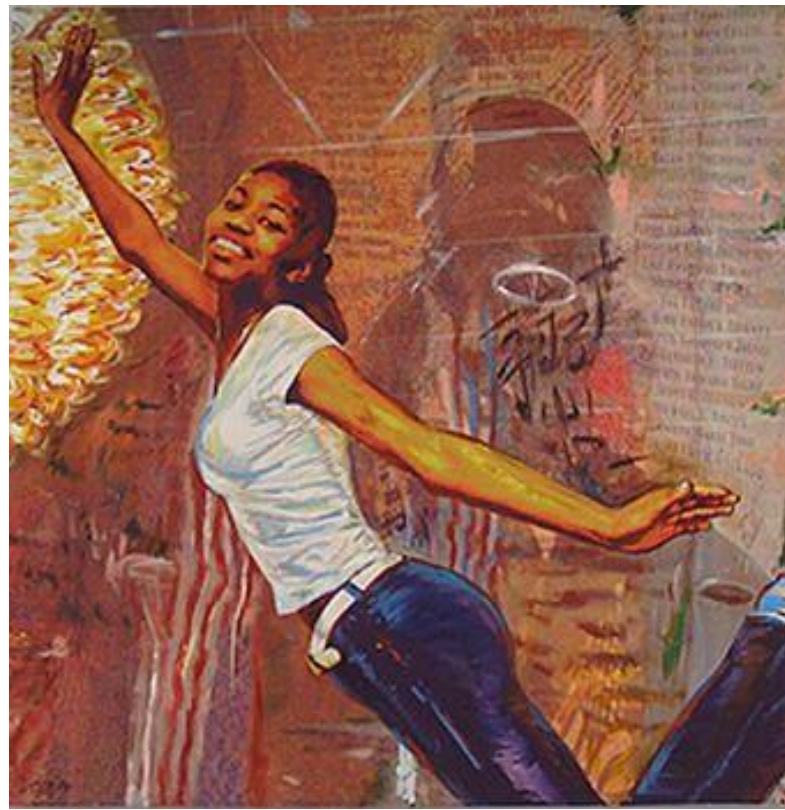
*Spanish Scarf*(UK)   *Supersize your Seconds* (USA)   *Harlem Boys* (USA) June Bianchi: Digital/paintings on canvas 2008

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)
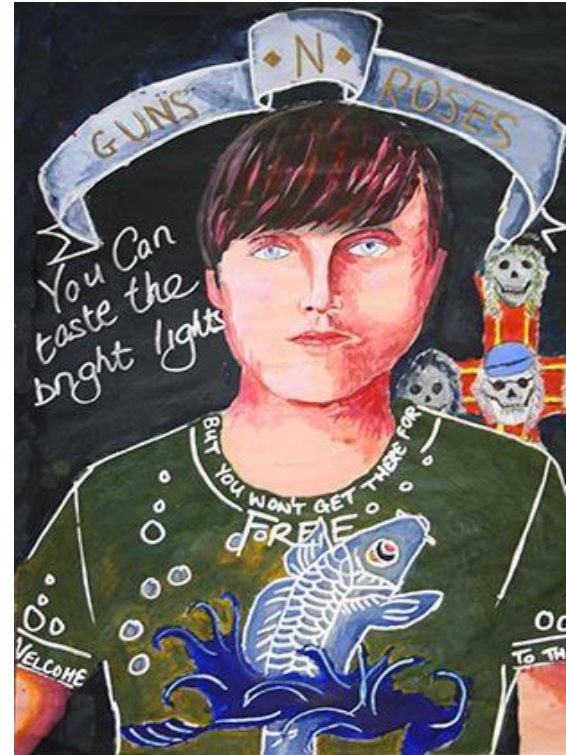
All Levels Learning Activities: Identity Collage

▸ 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/

▶ British Museum: Identity Resources

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

▶ Face Forward into My Home

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