

MoNA

Museum of Northwest Art

Age: Third Grade

Lesson Duration: 45-60 Minutes

Subjects: Self-Portrait

My Thoughts: Self-Portraits Inspired by Shannon Kirby

A HANDS-ON ART
ACTIVITY DESIGNED BY
MONA EDUCATION

Description

During this activity, students will look at the sculpture *Let Peace Begin With Me* by Shannon Kirby and use it as an inspiration to draw their own self-portraits surrounded by things they enjoy.



Image Credit: Teacher Example

Materials

- *Let Peace Begin With Me* image by Shannon Kirby (included)
- Pre-drawing writing worksheet (included)
- White drawing paper
- Pencil and eraser
- Thin black marker
- Crayons

Instructions

- 1)** Begin the art activity with a Visual Thinking Strategies (VTS) discussion on the sculpture *Let Peace Begin With Me* by Shannon Kirby.
 - VTS is an inquiry-based method of facilitating discussion. Tips and resources on VTS are included at the end of this lesson.
- 2)** Have students fill out the pre-drawing writing workshop to create a "recipe" for their self-portrait (included on the next page).
 - This will help students to decide what features and interests to include in their self-portraits.
- 3)** Before drawing the portrait, have students ask themselves some of the following questions to help plan our their art.
 - How can I make my portrait go beyond the "resemblance" or well-rendered diagram stage to capture something of the "soul" and "spark" of me? Will I reveal elements of fantasy or storytelling in my self-portrait? What symbols will I use to help give an insight into me? In what ways can I use color to portray my inner feelings?
- 4)** Demonstrate to students how to find the proportions of their face for their portraits. Feel free to use photos to show the orientation of facial features. You might ask:
 - Where are the eyes, ears, hairline, and sides of their necks?
- 5)** Pass out supplies to students and allow them to begin sketching and drawing their portraits.
- 6)** Tell students to fill out the top of the paper (above the self-portrait drawing) with things they like to think about. Objects, thought bubbles, or words will work well here!
- 7)** Tell students to outline their portraits and any important elements in black marker to make it stand out. Then let them color in their portraits with crayons to add details and textures.
 - Once students have finished their self-portraits, let them share them with each other and explain why they chose to include certain elements.
- 8)** Once the students have finished their portraits, you may want to ask some of the reflection questions at the end of this lesson.

Pre-drawing Writing Activity

Use descriptive words and fun adjectives to describe yourself!

Write a recipe for your portrait:

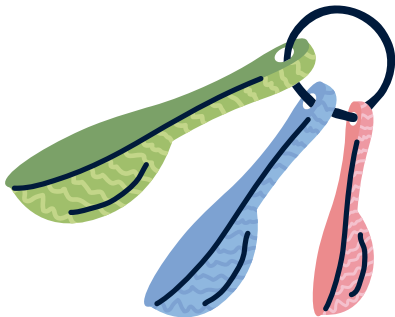
Mix together _____
(shapes of face, eyes, mouth)

(color of eyes, hair, skin)

(texture of hair)

Add _____
(things you think about a lot)

(special expression)
(special ingredients like glasses, earrings, freckles, or dimples)



Reflection Questions:

- How did Shannon Kirby's sculpture inspire your drawing?
- Did your art show your thoughts or tell emotions?
- What symbols did you use to speak for you and visualize your ideas?
- Did you discover something new about yourself?
- Do you think that drawings can show what's inside the artist?
- Does your drawing reveal aspects of who you are?

Vocabulary

- proportion
- expression
- self-portrait
- invisible
- thoughts



Learning and State Standards

Fulfills [Washington State Arts Learning Standards:](#)

- VA:Cr2.1.4 Explore and invent art-making techniques and approaches
- VA:Cr3..1.4 Revise artwork in progress on the basis of insights gained through peer discussion
- VA:R37.1.4 Compare responses to a work of art before and after working in a similar media

Visual Thinking Strategies

MoNA's Education programs utilize Visual Thinking Strategies (VTS), which is a research-based teaching method that promotes aesthetic development including critical thinking and communication skills. Here in the MoNA, we use VTS to engage students and general visitors with art encouraging them to observe closely, think critically and discuss respectfully; however, VTS can be effectively used across curricula. This approach teaches its participants how to take the time to observe closely, describe what they see in detail and provide evidence for their observations. Students learn that their reflections and thoughts are valued and appreciated in this inclusive teaching method.

In order to facilitate a VTS discussion, you first encourage viewers to take a quiet moment to observe the work you are going to explore. Then you ask the following questions and paraphrase the responses without adding any of your own judgements. You can insert additional vocabulary and point to specific parts of the artwork.

What's going on in this picture?

What do you see that makes you say...?

What more can you find?

Visual Thinking Strategy Links

If you are interested in learning more about VTS, [here is their website](#). If you already know and love VTS, but want help finding great images to use in your classroom, here is a [fantastic gallery](#). You can also visit this website for additional resources: www.monamuseum.org/resources-for-educators

About the Artist: Shannon Kirby

Shannon Kirby is an artist from Camano Island, Washington. She works primarily in sculpture. Using ceramic, wood, and bronze, Kirby makes pieces that cover the range from figural to abstract sculpture.



Image Credit: Powell Studios



Let Peace Begin Within Me, Shannon Kirby
Image Source: Powell Studios



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Image Source: Powell Studios