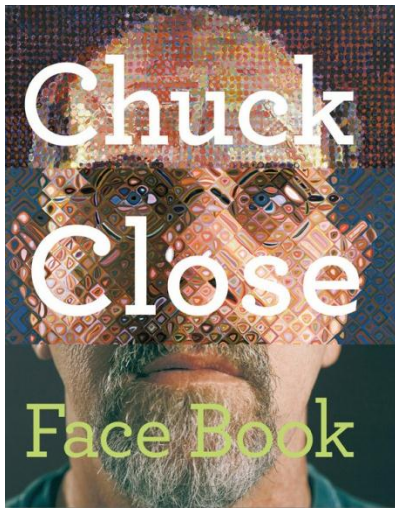


ART & THE LIBRARY

Whose Portrait?

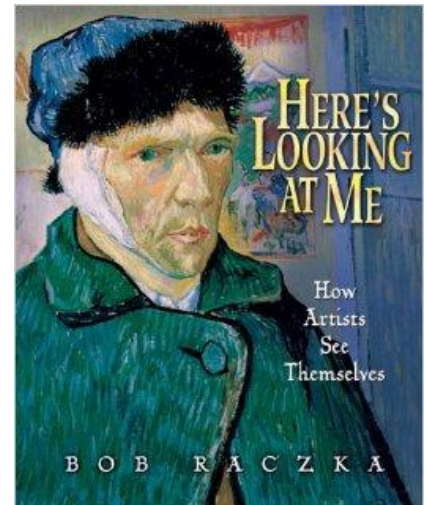
Book Connection



Chuck Close, a large-scale portrait artist, is introduced in this casual, conversational auto-biography. Written in an interview format, *Chuck Close* delves into the life, challenges, and art of Chuck Close. People are his constant subject, but the way he chooses to depict them varies. From oil painting to printmaking, Close uses exploration to drive his art. This book is a great resource for kids who've always wanted to interview an artist. It's an interesting, motivational, and personal inside look at this famous portrait artist whose art is truly larger than life.

Bob Raczka has some really great books about connecting to art in new and different ways. His book *Here's Looking at Me*, explores the self-portraits of many prominent artists

from the Renaissance to today. Along with each portrait there is a short biography that helps readers better interpret and understand the artwork. This book is a fun way to learn about the story behind the artist and their artwork, while contemplating: "If I was going to create a picture of myself, how would I do it?"



Inspired Activity

Portraits are a diverse and open-ended subject in art. There are so many possibilities when exploring the art of portraiture. For our inspired activity this month, we will be doing exactly that; exploring different ways to make portraits. For this project you will need: sketch paper, pencils, mirrors or photographs of the subject, and several different mediums for artmaking: collage material and supplies, painting supplies, etc. This project can have as many options and be as open-ended as the teacher prefers. The objective of this project is to create a portrait of oneself or another familiar person, using material that relates to that person. The book, *My Dog is as Smelly as Dirty Socks* by Hanoch Piven, is a great example that is relatable for kids and is a perfect introduction to the project. A contemporary artist that relates to this idea is Vik Muniz. He created several portraits of Brazilian trash pickers using the trash that they're around all day. (For educators – to learn more about this artist and his work visit: <http://www.wastelandmovie.com/index.html>.)

1. To begin, each student must choose the person they'd like to create a portrait of and bring in an image of them (or use a mirror if they chose themselves).
2. The next step is to brainstorm. What things remind them of the person? They should make a list and begin a preliminary sketch of what they would like it to look like. They will also decide the materials they would like to use – magazine images, small objects, drawings, etc. These materials may be brought from home or found in the classroom – this is all up to teacher preference.
3. After they have chosen a person, completed a preliminary sketch, and decided on and gathered materials, they may begin their portrait. This may be a trial and error process as they create, but they should be reminded that the objective is to make the portrait meaningful to the person it depicts; it doesn't have to be realistic.
4. When finished, this project would be great for an exhibition and writing assignment as the students show and explain their choices and thoughts on their portraits.



Detail from *The Gypsy Magna – Pictures of Garbage* By Vik Muniz

Related Artists

Chuck Close

Frida Kahlo

Leonardo Da Vinci

Dorothea Lange

Giuseppe Arcimboldo

Alex Gross

Vik Muniz

Alexandre Farto

Shepard Fairey

AR Visual Art Standards K-8

Creating – Content Standards 1-3

Presenting – Content Standards 4-6

Connecting – Content Standards 10-11

Additional Library Resources

Print

My Dog is as Smelly as Dirty Socks by Hanoch Piven [PIC Piven Hanoch]

Me, Frida by Amy Novesky [PIC Novesky Amy]

Who Stole Mona Lisa? by Ruthie Knapp [PIC Knapp Ruthie]

Grandma in Blue With Red Hat by Scott Menchin [PIC Menchin Scott]

Steal Back the Mona Lisa by Meghan McCarthy [PIC McCarthy Meghan]

Remy and Lulu by Kevin Hawkes [PIC Hawkes Kevin]

Here's Looking at Me by Bob Raczka [ENF 760.0442 RAC]
Draw 50 People by Lee J. Ames [JNF 743.4 AME]
5 Steps to Drawing Faces by Susan Kesselring [JNF 743.4 KES]
Portraits by Joy Frisch [JNF 757 FRI]
Cool Odds and Ends Projects: Creative Ways to Upcycle Your Trash into Treasure by Pam Scheunemann [JNF 745.5 SCH]
Dorothea Lange by David C. King [JNF 92 Lange Dorothea]
Leonardo da Vinci by Don Nardo [JNF 92 Da Vinci Leonardo]
Chuck Close by Chuck Close [JNF 92 Close Chuck]

E-Learning on our website's Student Portal

(K-4) eLibrary Elementary (Proquest) –

"Close, Chuck." *Britannica Concise Encyclopedia*. 2011. *eLibrary Elementary*. Web. 21 Dec. 2015.

Anonymous. "Stencil Printing Chuck Close Style." *Scholastic Art*. 01 Dec. 2010: 8. *eLibrary Elementary*. Web. 21 Dec. 2015.

Robinson, Lolly. "Chuck Close: Face Book." *Horn Book Magazine*. 01 May. 2012: 111. *eLibrary Elementary*. Web. 21 Dec. 2015.

Anonymous. "Landfill Masterpiece." *Scholastic Art*. 01 Apr. 2011: 3. *eLibrary Elementary*. Web. 21 Dec. 2015.

(K-4) World Book Online for Kids -

"Lange, Dorothea." *World Book Kids*. World Book, 2015. Web. 21 Dec. 2015.

"Leonardo da Vinci." *World Book Kids*. World Book, 2015. Web. 21 Dec. 2015.

(5-6) World Book Student -

"Mona Lisa." *World Book Student*. World Book, 2015. Web. 21 Dec. 2015.

Leveton, Deborah. "Close, Chuck." *World Book Student*. World Book, 2015. Web. 21 Dec. 2015.

Leveton, Deborah. "Kahlo, Frida." *World Book Student*. World Book, 2015. Web. 21 Dec. 2015.