

**Pre- and Post-Visit Activities:
Portrait Art**

Overview:

These activities, which support the Staten Island Museum's lesson "Portrait Art", introduce students to the definition of portrait art and the portraits in the Staten Island Museum's collection.

Background Information for Educators

Portraits are an artistic way of representing people. There are different modes of creating portraits: paintings, sculptures, photographs, and other forms of media. A portrait may focus on likeness, personality, mood, or historical significance of the person depicted. Portraits are sometimes commissioned. In most cases, portraits show part figures, usually from head to shoulders, however, there is no restriction for having whole figures as portraits. There can be an individual portrait or a group portrait. When the artist depicts him or herself, it's a self-portrait.

Content-Specific Vocabulary:

- Artist - someone who creates art
- Attire - the clothing the person in the portrait is wearing
- Commission - to order something to be made, like a portrait
- Details- small individual features of a larger artwork
- Facial Expression - the way the different parts of the face work together to show emotion
- Gestures - what the person does with his or her hands
- Portrait- A person or a group of people represented in an image you can see (drawing, painting, photograph).
- Posture - the position of the body
- Props - the things the person in the portrait is holding or is surrounded by
- Setting - Where something is happening or taking place. In portrait art, the setting may be in the background.

Before Your Visit:

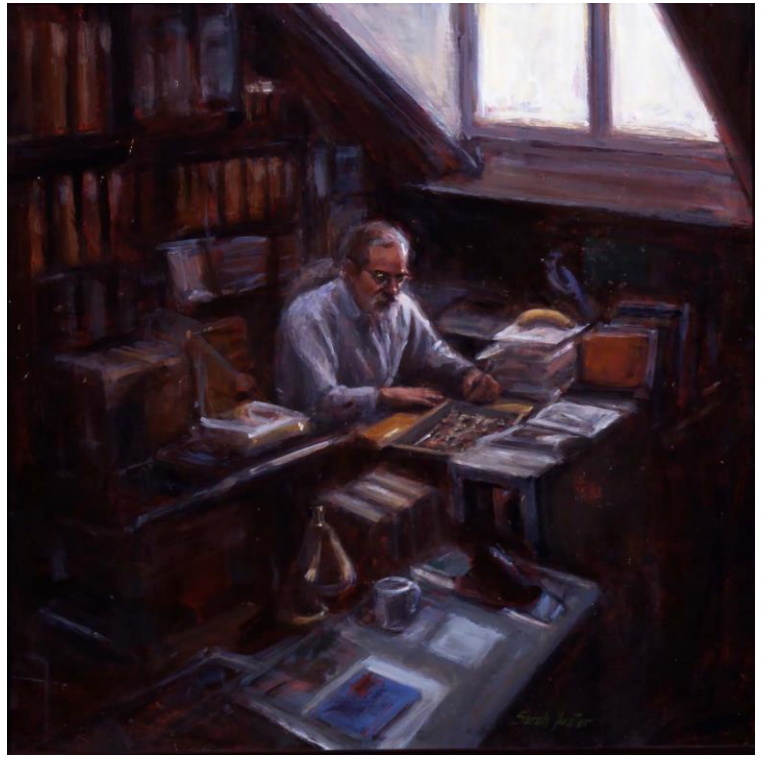
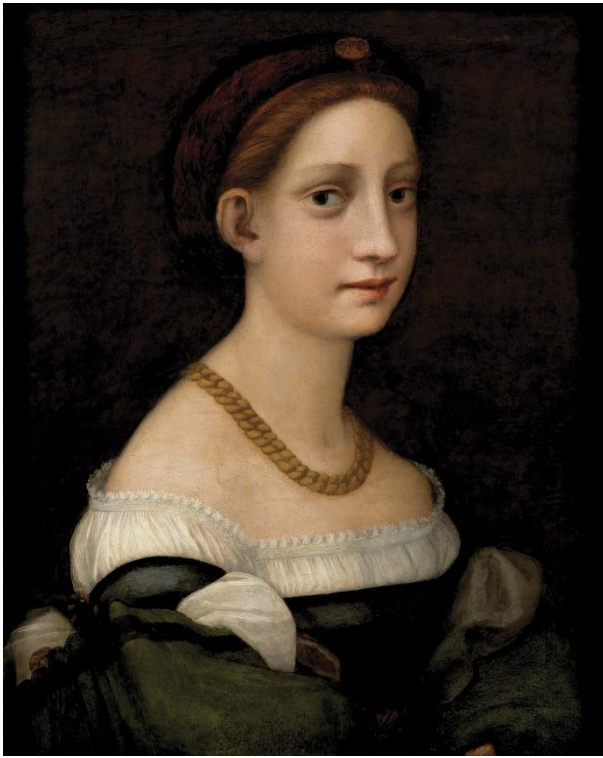
Create a mind map or word web with your students to understand their background knowledge about art.

After Your Visit:

- Write a story about the person in your picture.

Portrait Art

These two paintings are PORTRAITS from the Staten Island Museum’s collection. Look carefully at the two paintings, and try to find out more about each person from the details the artists have included. Afterwards, you can learn more about the paintings at 140 Objects - Staten Island Museum .



<p>What is the person in the picture wearing?</p>	<p>What is the person in the picture wearing?</p>
<p>Are there any other objects in the picture that can help you learn more about this person?</p>	<p>Are there any other objects in the picture that can help you learn more about this person?</p>
<p>Can you guess or imagine where this person is?</p>	<p>Can you guess or imagine where this person is?</p>