

LESSON PLAN: Pop Art Portraits

By Karen Gerety Folk, August 2007



Key Idea: Contemporary artists create portraits in a variety of styles. The Pop Art movement of the 1960s (and beyond) includes works of art that reference popular media: cartoons, advertising, and celebrity culture, etc. Artists might represent people as **stylized caricatures** of individuals and include words or objects to suggest identity and to experiment with figure/ground relationships.

Objectives:

1. Warm up activity: Think of favorite foods, brand names, characters and logos. Look through printed advertising for packaging designs, and sketch some of your favorites.
2. Students will learn about ways contemporary artists take inspiration from graphic design. Students will identify stylistic characteristics of Pop Art through teacher-guided tour in the Nerman Museum exhibitions and permanent collection focus areas.
3. Students will create a layered self-portrait in a Pop Art style using existing photographs (like school portraits, or take a digital image at the start of class). High contrast images with a light source to one side, even low resolution or pixelated images work well. Use a glue stick to apply your portrait to the construction paper, and then along the top edge of your portrait, apply the first sheet of tracing paper and then the second sheet on top, so you can flip each sheet up and see your original portrait through the two sheets. On the middle sheet, trace a simple **contour drawing** (without including details) using one marker. Experiment with **stippling** in the shaded areas with a light color, medium color, and dark color. On the top sheet, sketch a stylized (cartoon-like) self-portrait using only a few dots and lines from the under drawing as a guide.

Vocabulary:

appropriation: incorporating a real object or even another artists' work.

diptych: two images, panels or paintings hinged together.

Pop Art: in the 1960s and beyond, European and American artists responded to mass marketing and popular culture (British artists: Richard Hamilton, Eduardo Paolozzi, David Hockney; American artists Andy Warhol, Roy Lichtenstein, and James Rosenquist were among the first)

portrait: image of a person

stylized: simplified, exaggerated elements; decorative, flattened, unnatural, cartoon-like

Materials:

Construction paper, one 12" x 18" sheet per student

Source portrait, 7" x 8 1/2" (school pictures for photocopying, or take a digital photograph and send to office printer)

Computer access, black ink printer/scanner or photo copy machine

Tracing paper, cut into 7" x 9" sheets, 2 per student

Magazines, catalogues, newspapers with grocery ads for product ideas

White copy paper

Oil pastels

Broad tip and fine tip water based markers

Glue stick

Tour artwork images:



Barry Anderson (American, b. 1969)

Op Eyes, 2008

Single channel video, 2-minute loop

Collection Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art, 2008.09



Mickalene Thomas (American, b. 1971)

Quanikah #1, 2004

Acrylic, oil, paint and pen on paper

Collection Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art, 2005.76

Gift of Marti and Tony Oppenheimer



KAWS (American, b. 1974)

UPS AND DOWNS, 2013

Screen prints on Saunders Waterford 410gm High White paper

Collection Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art, 2014.18.01-2014.18.10

Gift of the artist



Red Grooms (American, b. 1937)

Mr. Chuck Berry, 1978

Color silkscreen with die cut

Collection Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art, 2000.18

Gift of Eileen and Peter Norton, Santa Monica, CA



Red Grooms (American, b. 1937)

Van Gogh with Sunflowers, 1988

Lithograph

Collection Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art, 2000.19

Gift of Eileen and Peter Norton, Santa Monica, CA



Roger Shimomura (American b. 1939)

Kabuki Party, 1988

Screen print

Collection Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art, 1996.27