

## LESSON PLAN: Portraits in Printmaking

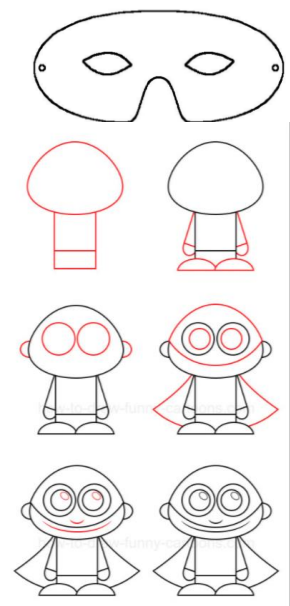
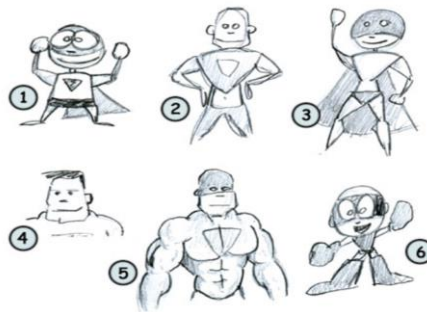
By Cynthia Lofquist, November 2016

*Learn about human characters in art and make a printed superhero self-portrait.*

**Key Idea:** Contemporary artists create portraits—a representation of a person—in a variety of styles and materials, but some artists choose to communicate something about character beyond the everyday likeness.



**Introductory Activity:** Using crayons, students can embellish and decorate a generic mask (print out) to show what kind of superhero they want to portray.



### Studio objectives:

1. Students will use a handout with a step-by-step guide to drawing a superhero with cape and mask, adding personal touches as they go:
2. Students will strike different superhero poses and draw themselves in a pose using the ideas from the first practice activity.
3. Students will transfer a self-portrait drawing to a foam printing plate, color the surface with markers, spritz the surface and make multiple prints (the incised lines remain white).

### Tour objectives:

Students will learn about artworks that show people, and some of the faces and bodies are based on real people. Others are characters with bold features and dramatic poses that might remind us of cartoons and comic book superheroes. We will talk about proportions, clothing and poses. During the tour stop in the Carlsen Center, student will practice poses and do a full body tracing activity on roll paper. Students will investigate carved surfaces in sculpture and various printmaking techniques.

### Materials:

Practice paper -newsprint  
Watercolor paper  
Foam sheets  
Tape

Pencils  
Broad tip and fine tip markers  
Spritzer bottle  
Brayers

### Tour artwork images:



**Harold D. Smith, Jr.** (American, b. 1962)

*Untitled (Man of Color Series)*, 2019

Acrylic and mixed media on canvas

Collection Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art



**Donna Dobberfuhr** (American, b. 1949)

*Mise en Scene*, 1990

Hand carved bricks with 32 figures total

Carlsen Center, Johnson County Community College





**Jonathan Borofsky** (American, b. 1942)

*Walking Man*, 1995

Fiberglass and steel

Collection Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art, 1995.14

Gift of Marti and Tony Oppenheimer and the Jules and Doris Stein Foundation



**Ruud van Empel** (Dutch, b. 1958)

*World #2*, 2005

Cibachrome, Plexiglas and aluminum

Collection Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art, 2005.77

Gift of Marti and Tony Oppenheimer





**Seonna Hong** (American, b. 1973)

*Shadows Stretch*, 2005

Cel vinyl on wood

Collection Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art, 2005.73

Gift of Marti and Tony Oppenheimer