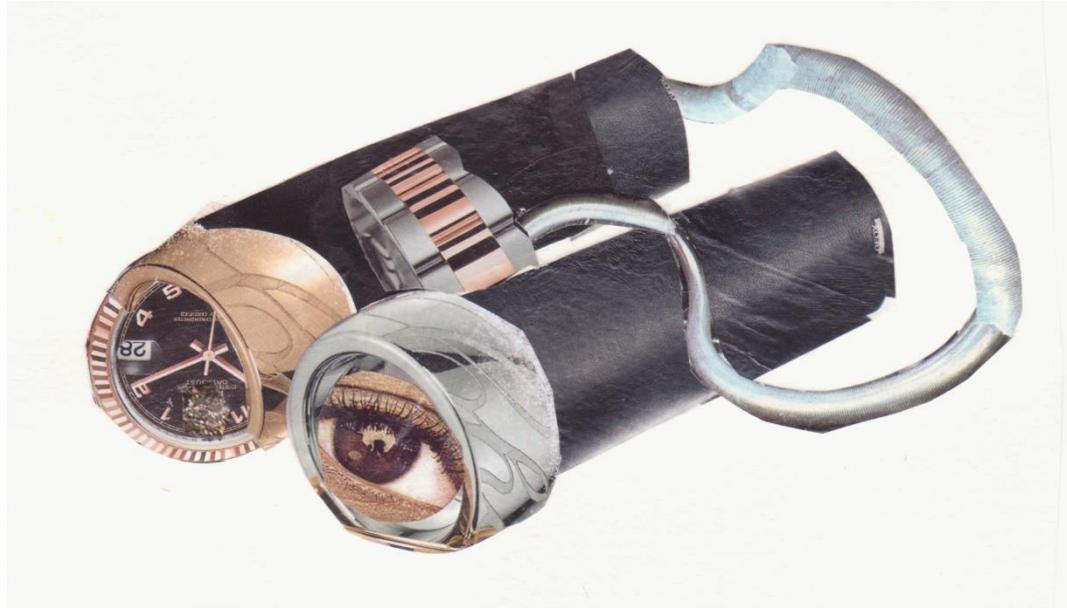


Who am I ?

Settings, Objects, Costumes & Concepts

Faces of Canada Education Program

The Kingston Prize



Using your handout from Lesson One, “How to Read a Portrait”, let’s take a look at some past and current Kingston Prize portraits.

Artists use objects and settings to tell the story of the sitter. If you made a portrait of yourself, what objects would you include? Where would you be in your self portrait?



Setting :
Where is the sitter?

- mood
- lighting
- colour choices
- composition

Artist: Peter Adams
Home: Creemore, Ontario
Title: Arron Adams
Medium: Oil on canvas



“I had been thinking a lot about identity when I created this portrait. In particular, how we gain confidence and independence in our early teens. And how we are no longer dependent on parents for everything. My son has reached the age where he is making decisions for himself and really blossoming into his own person - though (typically for the age) not always terribly expressive about his point of view. I tried to capture that quiet confidence in this portrait and asked him to pose with the empty chairs and the map (of the Isle of Arran, after which he was named) positioned in the background. I see the piece as a contemplation on finding one’s own unique identity, knowing where one has come from in the face of making choices about where one is going.”

Peter Adams

The Kingston Prize
Artist Nancy Douglas



Objects:

What objects are included?

- Are the objects used by the sitter? How?
- Do objects form the composition?

Artist: Barbara Sutherland

Home: Toronto, Ontario

Title: Self-Portrait

Media: Oil on canvas



“During the painting of this self-portrait in my studio, I was preoccupied with the notion of the artist as separate from the rest of me. A need arose to use the mirror frame to interrupt the space, dividing the figure from her tools. There is a sadness inherent in the separation. The artist: alone and apart from not only other aspects of herself, but from others in her life. I have attempted to express a deep and enduring love of art making.”

Barbara Sutherland



Costume:

What is the sitter wearing?

- Is it an everyday outfit?
- Does the costume give the sitter a new role?
- Is the costume a clue to the sitter's personality?

Artist: H el ene Beland

Home: Pierreville, Qu ebec

Title: Woodland Fairy

Media: Oil on canvas



“In a small village of Quebec, I crossed Pamélie’s clear blue eyes. Accustomed as I was to see made up young women, Pamelie’s “natural” complexion charmed me as well. I asked her to pose in order to capture the true “well being” that emanated from her, simply and frankly, without any artifice. I painted her as a «woodland fairy» to accentuate this aspect of her.” *Hélène Beland*



Concept:

Fantasy objects, animals and space

- objects may have hidden meaning
- imagined place can tell a story
- animals can behave in unusual ways

Artist: Christine Cousineau

Home: Hudson, Quebec

Title: Claraland

Medium: Oil on canvas

“The painting, *Claraland*, seeks to render the psychological and emotional space of the subject, Clara. She is a girl who has a richly developed inner life, whose imagination is inhabited by animal friends and dreamlike, archetypal characters. She is situated in a world of innocence, play and creativity. Her world is bounded but not entirely safe.”

Christine Cousineau



Making a Self Portrait

Who are you?

Who are You?

What will your self portrait look like?

What elements of portraiture will you use to tell your story?

- Setting
- Colour/Mood
- Costume
- Objects
- Concept/Imagination

Write a brief paragraph that describes who you are and what is important to you.

Now let's make a self portrait..

Next Steps!

Check out other portrait competitions:

- The Archibald Prize-Australia:

<https://www.artgallery.nsw.gov.au/prizes/archibald/>

- BP Portrait Award-UK:

<http://www.npg.org.uk/whatson/bp-portrait-award-2017/exhibition/>

- Portrait Society of America:

<http://www.portraitsociety.org/international>