




## PORTRAITS/Self

Artists	Inspirations	Ideas
<p><b>Paul Gauguin</b> 1848 - 1903</p> 	<p>This composition by Gauguin was included among the exchanges. In this work, Gauguin includes a likeness, in full profile, of the fictional character Jean Valjean, the morally upright but perpetually socially persecuted hero of Victor Hugo's <i>Les Misérables</i> (1862). Sporting a solemn look, tousled hair, and tired eyes, Gauguin clearly intends to draw a parallel between himself and Valjean, whose petty crime of the past (he once stole a loaf of bread) forever brands him a criminal, no matter of his subsequent virtues.</p> <p>Gauguin used first-person art forms (self-portraits, diaries, letters, journals) aid to aid the process of his self-discovery and portraits.</p>	<p>Self as an ideal.</p>
<p><b>Augustus of Prima Porta, 15 A.D.</b></p> 	<p>On Augustus' lower right side is a statue of Cupid riding a dolphin. Cupid or Eros, is Venus's son. This emphasizes Augustus' claims of divine lineage. This is also portrayed in his bare feet- even though Augustus is wearing military outfits, if he were going into battle he would be wearing military boots instead of bare feet. (Thoughtful, humanitarian. Respected yet feared.)</p> <p>The breastplate is covered with figures and is a complex of propaganda commemorating Augustus' victory over the Parthians in 20 B.C. The figures on the breastplate have a cosmic setting.</p> <p>Reproduced widely.</p>	<p>Power Portrait.</p> <p>Biographical symbols of self (armour).</p>

<p><b>Cindy Sherman</b> b. 1954</p> 	<p>“Film Stills” series. Cindy Sherman updates the genre of the photo/portraiture by including ideas of role-playing, the influence of film, and her use of traditional and contemporary photographic processes.</p>	<p>The roles I play.</p>
<p><b>Vik Muniz</b> b. 1961</p> 	<p>Using the same ideas and given access to thousands of diamonds, Muniz created dazzling portraits of Hollywood’s silver screen divas: Marilyn Monroe, Elizabeth Taylor, Grace Kelly, Bette Davis and Marlene Dietrich. He tested the “degree of interference between the overkill glamour of the stars themselves and that of shiny rocks.” These mesmerizing portraits of some of the 20th century’s most celebrated actresses seem to cast a glittering, eternal afterimage. The artist also employs diverse materials such as toys, dead leaves, garbage, and magazine clippings, the artist creates tableaux, which are then photographed.</p>	<p>Pieces of me.</p>
<p><b>Kehinde Wiley</b> b. 1977</p> 	<p>Highly naturalistic paintings of young men he photographs on the street in heroic poses often referencing Old Master works – valorizing marginalized populations.</p>	<p>History/ Society related “selfies”</p>

<p><b>Frida Kahlo</b> 1907-1954</p> 	<p>Kahlo used her physical and psychological experiences and tragedies to inspire her art. Using surrealism, her works are emotionally raw and visually disturbing. This piece works with the idea of her pain during divorce, and the transitioning of her personal identity.</p>	<p>Portrait to represent life journey and self-image.</p>
<p><b>John Singer Sargent</b> 1856-1925</p> 	<p>One of the first to explore portraiture that speaks about the character of the sitter themselves. This painting involved in a dialogue about this scandalous society figure who was known for her beauty and love affairs.</p>	<p>Questions: who is this person beyond the physical?  "Portrait of Madame X"</p>

**Otto Dix**  
1891-1969



This artist was interested in caricature and exaggerating the odd and undesirable or unattractive aspects of a person's image. He used this method to study how the psychological and physical are related in making up who a person is.

Comment by  
exaggerating.

**SUPPLEMENTS:**

**Chuck Close** – 7 ft. tall heads

**Pete Hocking** – daily photos since 2001: <https://dailyfratze.de/pete>

**Orlan** – performance artist who uses plastic surgery (for advanced students only) to make art.

**Rembrandt** – made over 100 self-portraits during his lifetime: paintings, etchings and drawings.

**Andy Warhol**- examples ways of considering print and photography as an art medium for expressive portraits.

**Moai**- Easter Island monolithic heads (1250 A.D.)

**NOTES:**

