

The Artist's Studio: Paired Portraits

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A portrait is an artwork that tells a person's story. Portraits can show what someone looks like, but they can also highlight special characteristics about a person, anything from what they've accomplished to aspects of their personalities and beliefs.

What can we tell about artist Beauford Delaney from these two portraits of him?

Materials

- Colored markers, pencils, or crayons
- Paper
- A partner

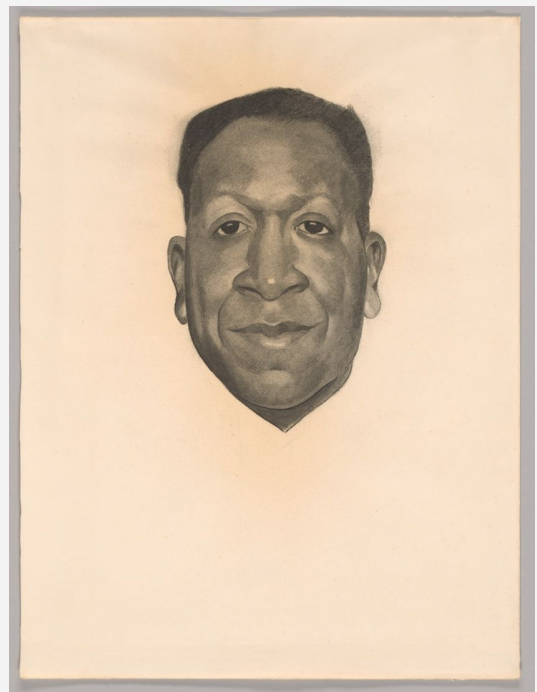
Who gives meaning to a portrait: the artist, the subject, or the viewer?

Partner up with a friend or a family member. You will each create two portraits—one of yourself and one of the other person. *What special characteristics about the subject will you share? How will you show these ideas in your drawing?*

When you both have finished, swap the drawings that you made of one another. You should each have a self-portrait and the drawing made of you by the other person. *What stories do your portrait drawings tell? Are they same or different?*



Beauford Delaney. *Self-Portrait*, 1944. Purchased with funds provided by Alexander C. and Tillie S. Speyer Foundation; Samuel A. Marx Endowment.



Georgia O'Keeffe. *Beauford Delaney*, 1943. Harry B. and Bessie K. Braude Memorial Fund.

The colorful painting on the left is a self-portrait, made by Delaney himself. The charcoal drawing on the right was made by artist Georgia O'Keeffe. *What is unique to each portrait? What do they have in common?*