

Topic and Type of Task: Self Portraits with Frida Kahlo
[Topic = Creative Expression]

Subject and Grade: Art, 9–12

Essential Question: How can you use art of portraiture as a tool to represent and portray your identity?

Technical Essential Question: How do you use the grid system and shading techniques to draw a realistic proportionate portrait?

Teacher’s Overview*: After our identity work in the Superhero Figure drawing, students will go deeper into their ability to communicate and express who they really are through their art. To do this, students will learn about Frida Kahlo’s self portraits and will learn how her life experiences helped to shape her artwork. They will learn about themselves through written reflection about their own identity in areas of: culture, relationships, health, trauma/experiences they’ve overcome, political beliefs, and personal interests. Students will also learn how to symbolize and communicate their identity in the background of their 18: x 24” self–portrait 2–D drawings. Additionally, students will learn the art skills of face drawing (eyes, nose, mouth, hair, face shape), shading with pencil and charcoal, and drawing to scale from a 5” x 7” photo we take in class. Students will think of a specific audience to make their self–portrait for, and may choose to gift their self–portrait to a person who has helped to influence or shape their identity.

How does this task give evidence of my Desired Results for students?

- 1.) Students will understand how Frida Kahlo’s life and identity was formed, and how she was able to communicate her identity through her artwork
- 2.) Student will be able to reflect on and understand how their personal identities are different and how they are shaped in a Reflection Journal
- 3.) Students will be able to draw the features of the human face
- 4.) Students will be able to draw their face from a photograph to scale
- 5.) Students will be able to communicate who they are/their identity through their artwork

How long will this task take? 6–7 weeks

Any additional planning notes or reminders?

* This page is for teachers only. The following page is for students.

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Essential Question: How can you use art of portraiture as a tool to represent and portray your identity?

Technical Essential Question: How do you use the grid system and shading techniques to draw a realistic proportionate portrait?

Overview of Situation: You will create a self portrait that expresses your identity and give it to the person in your life that has influenced you the most.

After the work we did on thinking about and symbolizing our superhero selves in the figure drawing unit, you will go deeper into your self expression and learn how to express and communicate your identity in a self portrait drawing. To do this work, you will learn about Frida Kahlo's life and we will study how her life experiences and identity helped to shape her artwork. Every day, we will reflect on areas of our own lives and learn about ourselves through written reflection. You will write several entries in a reflective journal about your identity in areas of: culture, relationships, health, trauma/experiences you've overcome, political beliefs, and personal interests. After collecting these ideas you will also learn how to symbolize and communicate your identity so that you can draw those symbols in the background of your 18" x 24" 2-D self-portrait. Additionally, you will learn the art skills of face drawing by practicing the eyes, nose, mouth, hair, and face shape. You will also learn about shading with charcoal and pencil, and you will base your self portrait on a 5 x 7" photo we take in class in order to learn how to draw a realistic self portrait to scale. Before beginning the final project, you will think of a specific audience to make your self-portrait for; you may choose to gift your self-portrait to a person who has helped to influence or shape your own identity.

Vocabulary: SELF PORTRAIT, SURREALISM, IDENTITY, DRAWING TO SCALE, SHADING, NEGATIVE SPACE

Task Instructions/Guidelines/Details:

- 1.) **Reading and Notes:** on Frida Kahlo's life and identity, and how she was able to communicate her identity through her artwork
- 2.) **A Daily Journal:** Reflect on and understand how your personal identities are different and how they are shaped
- 3.) **Learn to draw the features of the human face by practicing:** Eyes, Ears, Nose, Mouth, Face Shape, Hair
- 4.) **Learn to draw your face to scale from a photograph**
- 5.) **Final Self Portrait Project:** 18' x 24' 2-D piece of your face drawn proportionately and symbolize who you are/your identity in the negative space (background)

How will you be assessed?

- Assessment Day – Turn in Face Practices and be able to write about a piece of artwork using specific vocabulary
- Final Project – To assess your creative thinking/ability to communicate your identity
- Artist Statement – To assess your ability to write about your process, use vocabulary and communicate your self identity in written form.

Benchmarks/Check-ins

Reflection Journal Prompts: (at least 1/2 page each)	Stamp for completion
Notes on Frida Kahlo	
My identity – a brainstorm	
What I've seen with my eyes...	
What I've smelled (a smell/scent that brings a memory)...	
What I've said with my mouth...	
A haircut memory....	
My face is....	
My audience, who has shaped me the most?...	
My attitude/posture – a plan for the photo	
My final design plan	