

Notes on Portraits Powerpoint

Objective :

To stimulate discussion and develop understanding of the ways in which artists communicate aspects of their personality and lives, through portraits and self-portraits.

- 1 Examples of self-portraits by GCSE level pupils
- 2 Paul Gauguin and Jacob Lawrence Think about what they have included in the frame, their expressions etc. Gauguin's 'Self-portrait with Yellow Christ' includes a painting that he had recently completed
- 3 Escher – clever, mathematical artwork in black and white – seen peering inquisitively through at the viewer
Rossetti – uses soft, warmer colours in his romantic paintings
- 4 Van Gogh has used blues to show his depressed mood, while Frida Kahlo had expressed how she is feeling – the viewer sees her sitting alone having cut off her hair
- 5 'Self-portrait' by Tom Golding
Describe the environment this man has chosen to paint himself in?
Look at how he has painted himself, his expression – why do you think he has chosen this composition to reflect his personality?
How do you think he feels about this kind of environment?
'Self-portrait' by Jack Pakenham, from Belfast
Compare this man's expression and the way he has painted his environment. Look at how the street swirls away into the background. How do you think he feels about being in this environment?
- 6 This is a self-portrait by Rowel Friers, who used to draw cartoons for the Belfast Telegraph. It is in two halves – have a look at the background and his expression in each half and try to work out what he is trying to tell us about how he feels. On one side we can see the side of Northern Ireland that he loves, the countryside and friendly faces; on the other we see people representing the political troubles of the country. He is very interested in drama and used the two faces, like the comic and tragic masks that represent the theatre, to show this.
- 7 Including objects in the picture that have a symbolic meaning.
- 8 Portrait of Josef Pembaur by Gustav Klimt
What do you see in this painting associated with the sitter?
Musical instruments, images from ancient art. He is a famous composer
- 9 Recap on all the different ways that we can use art to communicate things about ourselves and our lives.