



ELEMENTS OF PORTRAYAL

Definitions

Facial Expression: The look or perceived movement of muscles on someone's face. The facial expression can help identify the sitter's emotion(s) and provide us with clues about their thoughts and feelings.

Pose: The way a body is positioned. In a portrait, the pose can help us understand what the artist is trying to say about the sitter, or how the sitter wants to be viewed or perceived.

Clothing: The items a sitter wears on their body. In a portrait, the clothing might tell us about the sitter, their occupation, personality, economic or social status, or the era in which they lived.

Hairstyle: The way a person wears their hair, including the color and style. The hairstyle can offer hints about the sitter's age and when they might have lived.

Setting: The surroundings or the place in which a portrait is located. Real or imagined, the setting can help provide context (or additional clues) about the sitter's story.

Objects: Objects often function as symbols that

provide information about the sitter. They can help us understand the sitter's profession, their accomplishments, or highlight other aspects of the sitter's story.

Color: The various hues that often set the tone, mood, or overall feeling. Color can help the artist convey their message about the sitter.

Medium: The material used to create a piece of art. Some popular media for portraiture include painting, charcoal, clay, wood, marble, photography, and video.

Scale: The relative size or extent of something. The size of the portrait or the size of the sitter within the portrait (how much space they take up) can often influence the way in which we perceive the sitter.

Artistic Style: The personal technique(s) and medium (or media) that an artist uses to create a portrait. Often, the artist's style can give us clues about who the sitter is or when the portrait was created.

