

WELCOME TO **DM/IS DM/IS 10D Digital Images: Advanced Photoshop 10C Digital Images: Photoshop**  
**HOMEWORK 6 SELF PORTRAIT**

**Homework 6 Self-Portrait:**

**What is a Self Portrait?**

A self-portrait is a representation of ones self, drawn, painted, photographed, collaged, or sculpted by the artist. In Photoshop you will use photographs and digital tools to create your self portrait. But you may be tempted to use hand work in the form of drawings or paintings or prints that you have made outside of Photoshop. However, you decide to approach your self portrait read on to become acquainted with how self portraits have evolved over the centuries.

Although self-portraits have been made by artists since the earliest times, it is not until the Early Renaissance in the mid 1400s that artists can be frequently identified depicting themselves as either the main subject, or as important characters in their work. With better and cheaper mirrors, and the advent of the panel portrait, many painters, sculptors and printmakers tried some form of self-portraiture. Not until the Renaissance however, with increased wealth and interest in the individual as a subject, did the genre of self portrait become truly popular.

**Types of Self Portrait:**

A self-portrait may be a portrait of the artist, or a portrait included in a larger work, including a group portrait. Many painters are said to have included depictions of specific individuals, including themselves, in painting figures in religious or other types of composition not intended to depict the actual persons as themselves. Often these are just faces in a crowd, often at the corner of the work, but a particular hybrid genre developed where historical scenes were depicted using a number of actual persons as models, often including the artist, giving the work a double function as portrait and history painting. Rubens and Rembrandt painted such scenes.

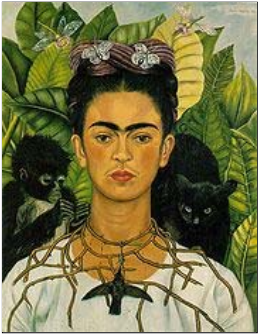
This culminated in the seventeenth century with the work of Jan de Bray, and has been revived in recent years in photography by Cindy Sherman. Many artistic media have been used; apart from paintings, drawings and prints have been especially important. Much of Frida Kahlo's work was using her image and metaphors to depict events and circumstances central in her life. In film, Alfred Hitchcock is well known for putting himself in many of his films; brief appearances that the observer could easily miss.



Jan de Bray and his wife as Ulysses and Penelope, 1668.



Cindy Sherman's work places her 'made up' self at the center of her photographs, thus provoking the viewer to question what they are seeing. [Untitled Film still #21, 1978]



Frida Kahlo's self portraits use visual metaphors that present and portray her life and experiences.  
[Self Portrait 1940]



Albrecht Durer Self-portrait 1493. oil, originally on vellum Louvre, Paris. This is among the earliest known formal self-portraits. He is dressed in Italian fashion, reflecting his international success.

**Self Portraits in Asia**

Portraits and self-portraits have a longer continuous history in Asian art than in Europe. Many in the scholar gentleman tradition are quite small, depicting the artist in a large landscape, illustrating a poem in calligraphy on his experience of the scene. Another tradition, associated with Zen Buddhism, produced lively semi-caricatured self-portraits, whilst others remain closer to the conventions of the formal portrait.



Hokusai, early 19th century Japan.



Kikuchi Yosai, 1856-7, Japan.

**Women Painters**

Women artists are notable producers of self-portraits; almost all significant women painters have left an example, from Caterina van Hemessen to the prolific Elisabeth Vigee-Lebrun and Frida Kahlo. Vigee-Lebrun painted a total of 37 self-portraits, many of which were copies of earlier ones, painted for sale. Women were usually unable to train in drawing the nude, which made it difficult for them to paint large figure compositions, and portraiture was a common specialism. Until the nineteenth century, they usually showed themselves in the act of painting, or at least holding a brush and palette.



Sofonisba Anguissola (c. 1532 - 1625) of Cremona served as court painter to the Queen of Spain, and painted several self-portraits and many images of her family. c.1556



Marie-Denise Villers Young Woman Drawing, 1801, thought to be her self-portrait, and her most famous and finest painting. Originally attributed to Jacques-Louis David.



Mary Cassatt was an American portrait painter who specialised in portraits of women and children, 1878.



Marie Bashkirtseff self-portrait, 1880 was a Russian born artist who died at twenty-five. A large number of Bashkirtseff's works were destroyed by the Nazis during World War II.

**Antiquity**

Images of artists at work are encountered in Ancient Egyptian painting, and sculpture and also on Ancient Greek vases. One of first self-portraits was made by the Pharaoh Akhenaten's chief sculptor Bak in 1365 BC. Plutarch mentions that the Ancient Greek sculptor Phidias had included a likeness of himself in a number of characters in the "Battle of the Amazons" on the Parthenon, and there are classical references to painted self-portraits, none of which have survived.

**Rembrandt and the 17th century in Northern Europe**

In the 17th century, Flemish and Dutch artists painted themselves far more often; by this date most successful artists had a position in society where a member of any trade would consider having their portrait painted. Very many also painted their wives and families, again following the normal practice for the middle-classes. Anthony Van Dyck and Peter Paul Rubens gave us numerous images of themselves, the latter also often painting his family.

Rembrandt was the most frequent self-portraitist, at least until the self-obsessed

modern period, also often painting his wife, son and mistress. At one time about ninety paintings were counted as Rembrandt self-portraits, but it is now known that he had his students copy his own self-portraits as part of their training. Modern scholarship has reduced the autograph count to something over forty paintings, as well as a few drawings and thirty-one etchings, which include many of the most remarkable images of the group. Many show him posing in quasi-historical fancy dress, or pulling faces at himself. His oil paintings trace the progress from an uncertain young man to the dapper and very successful portrait-painter of the 1630s to the troubled but massively powerful portraits of his old age.



Rembrandt. Etching, c. 1630. Probably an exercise in capturing facial expressions for larger paintings.



Rembrandt. Role-playing in Self-portrait as an oriental Potentate with a Kris, etching, 1634.

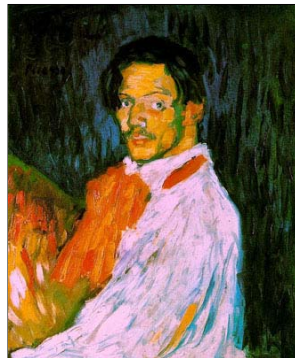
**Prolific Modern Self Portraitists**

One of the most famous and most prolific of self-portraitists was Vincent van Gogh, who painted himself thirty-seven times between 1886 and 1889. In all of these self-portraits one is struck that the gaze of the painter is seldom directed at us; even when it is a fixed gaze, he seems to look elsewhere. These paintings vary in intensity and color and some portray the artist with bandages; representing the episode in which he severed one of his ears.

Throughout his long career Pablo Picasso often used self-portraits to depict himself in the many different guises, disguises and incarnations of his autobiographical artistic persona. From the young unknown "Yo Picasso" period to the "Minotaur in the Labyrinth" period, to the "old Cavalier" and the "lecherous old artist and model" periods. Often Picasso's self portraits depicted and revealed complicated psychological insights, both personal and profound about the inner state and well being of the artist. Another artist who painted interestingly personal and revealing self-portraits throughout his career was Pierre Bonnard. Bonnard also painted dozens of portraits of his wife Marthe throughout her life as well. Vincent van Gogh, Paul Gauguin, and Egon Schiele in particular made intense and self-revealing self-portrait paintings throughout their careers.



Self-Portrait of Van Gogh with head bandaged, after he (debatedly)cut off part of his ear.



Self Portrait: Yo Picasso by Pablo Picasso.

**Other meanings, storytelling**

The self-portraits of many Contemporary artists and Modernists often are characterized by a strong sense of narrative, often but not strictly limited to vignettes from the artists life-story. Sometimes the narrative resembles fantasy, roleplaying and fiction. Besides Diego Velazquez, (in his painting Las Meninas), Rembrandt Van Rijn, Jan de Bray, Gustave Courbet, Vincent van Gogh, and Paul Gauguin other artists whose self-portraits reveal complex narratives include Pierre Bonnard, Marc Chagall, Lucien Freud, Arshile Gorky, Alice Neel, Pablo Picasso, Lucas Samaras, Jenny Saville, Cindy Sherman, Andy Warhol and Gilbert and George.



Andy Warhol, Self-Portrait, 1986.



Jean-Michel Basquiat, Self-Portrait as a Heel Part Two, 1982.



Jacob Lawrence, Self-Portrait, 1977.

**Source:**

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Self-portrait>

**Links:**

<http://portrait.pulitzerarts.org/>

[http://www.nga.gov/education/classroom/self\\_portraits/act\\_intro\\_self.shtm](http://www.nga.gov/education/classroom/self_portraits/act_intro_self.shtm)

<http://www.artquotes.net/famous-paintings/self-portraits/index.htm>

<http://www.squidoo.com/picasso-artist-study>