

# I Am Festival 2021

## Portrait resource

As part of [I Am Festival 2021](#), we are showcasing a selection of self-portraits created by students from SEND settings across London.

To inspire you to create your own portrait, we have included some artist examples in this resource as well as a couple of step-by-step guides.

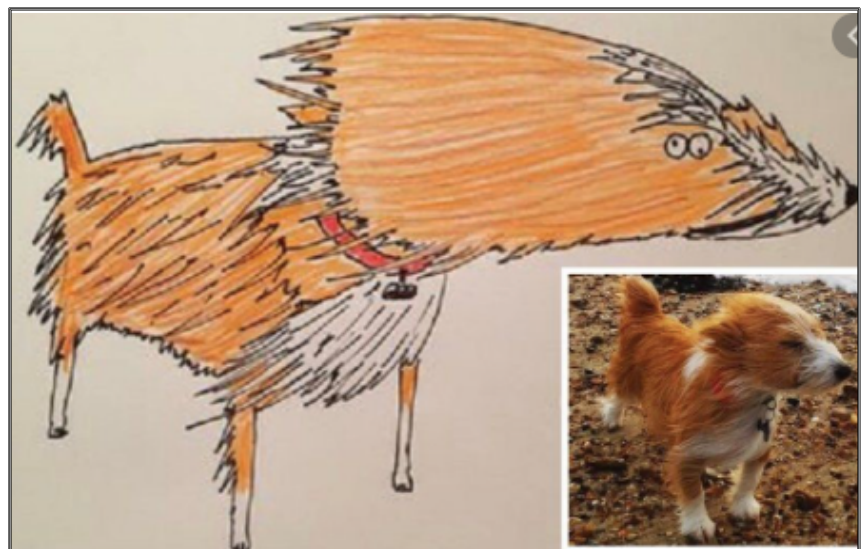
Use whatever materials you like to create the portraits – you will just need to scan them or take a photograph to share with us.

For a chance to be included in our online festival Gallery, share your picture on social media with the hashtag [#IAmFestival2021](#), or email it to [jim.beck@anewdirection.org.uk](mailto:jim.beck@anewdirection.org.uk)

Please note: for safeguarding reasons, we cannot include photographs that clearly identify the individual. If you work with photographs, these will need to be abstract or collages.

### What is a portrait?

- » It is a painting, drawing, photograph or maybe a sculpture of someone
- » It often concentrates on the head and shoulders of its subject
- » It can show a mood and important things in its subject's life
- » It's usually a person but it can also be a group of people, a pet or even an extra-terrestrial, for example!



## Portraits and love

Many artists have painted people and things they love. Perhaps their paintings were a gift for the subject or a way to tell the world about how they feel about someone or something.

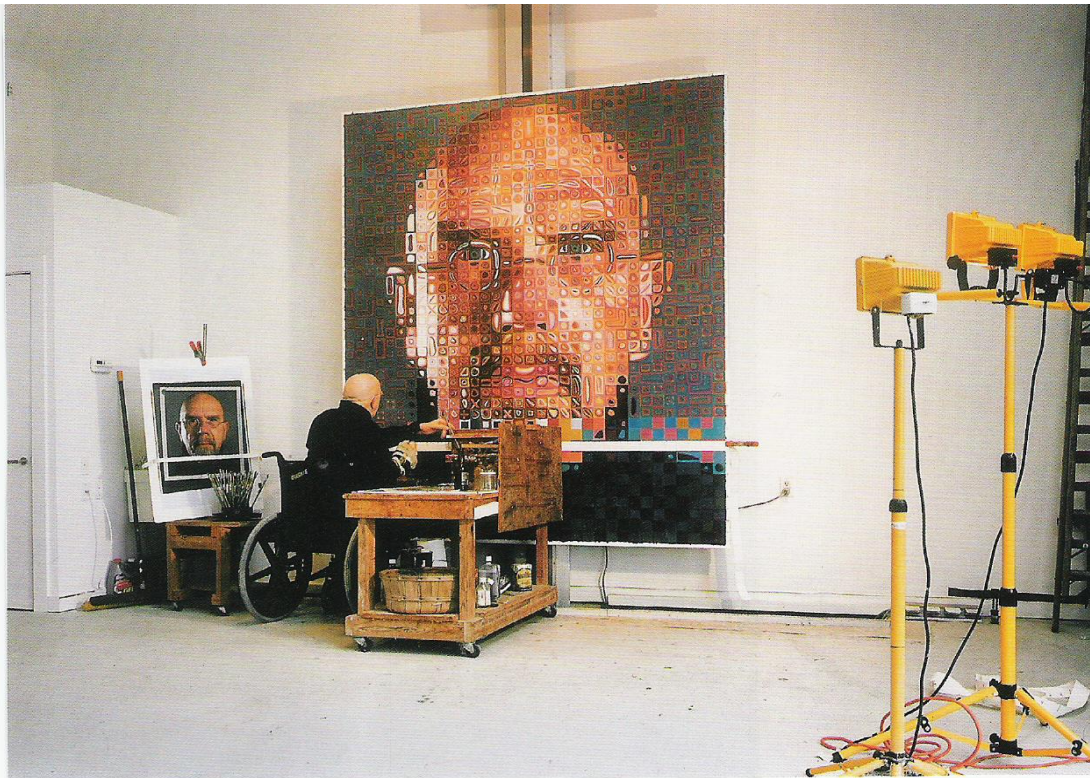


Pablo Picasso painted the image on the left of Marie-Therese, a woman he loved.



The artist on the right was more enthusiastic about a drink!

## Chuck Close



Chuck is almost completely paralysed and uses a special brush strapped to his arm. He paints huge portraits using a grid with lots of tiny coloured 'tiles' that build to create a work like the self-portrait here.



### Frida Kahlo (Lego, symbols)

Frida liked to dress in traditional Mexican clothes. You can see an example here. Painted on her forehead is her husband, artist Diego Rivera. Who would you paint on your face?

She also painted herself in different landscapes, often with animals and symbols. Here is one of her paintings re-interpreted with Lego figures.



### Paul Klee

Paul has been inspired by African masks and the warm colours of desert landscapes.



## Giuseppe Arcimboldo

Giuseppe made many portraits using images of fruits, vegetables and plants.

## Peter Gabriel

In his music video for the song Sledgehammer, Peter created his face as an animation with fruit. This is a still from the film.



## Jason Wilsher-Mills

Jason is a disabled artist who creates paintings, sculptures and giant inflatables of amazing characters. He also uses an i-pad to draw and paint. Here is one of his works.



## Tom Yendell

Tom paints with his mouth and his foot. He likes to paint flowers and people. This is a self-portrait.

If you don't want your subject to be just looking out from the canvas or paper, what could they be doing?

## Caroline Binch

Caroline is an artist known for her illustrations for the children's books *Amazing Grace* and *Hue Boy*. Here are portraits of a girl in lots of different positions doing what she loves: dancing!



## Wang Xingwei

Xingwei has replaced the heads of the subjects with other objects. If you could redesign your head (or someone else's), what would it look like?





Here's someone else reading a book. This is a sculpture made by young people with learning difficulties, inspired by the work on Antony Gormley. Students from Bradfield Academy in Kent worked with artist Daniel Wallis to make this person who's reading a book.

**Ben Eine** creates art works that are giant words on walls and other surfaces. Could you make a portrait using words?



Louise Clazey posted pictures her year 9 students had been making on Twitter

You could make a portrait of a group. Maybe your family, a group of friends, superheroes or people you admire.

**Manal Mirza** has painted a group of people campaigning for justice and the Black Lives Matter campaign.

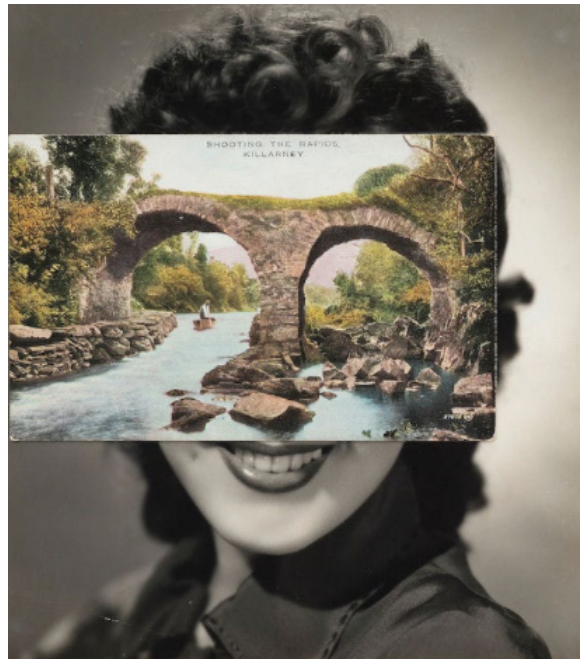
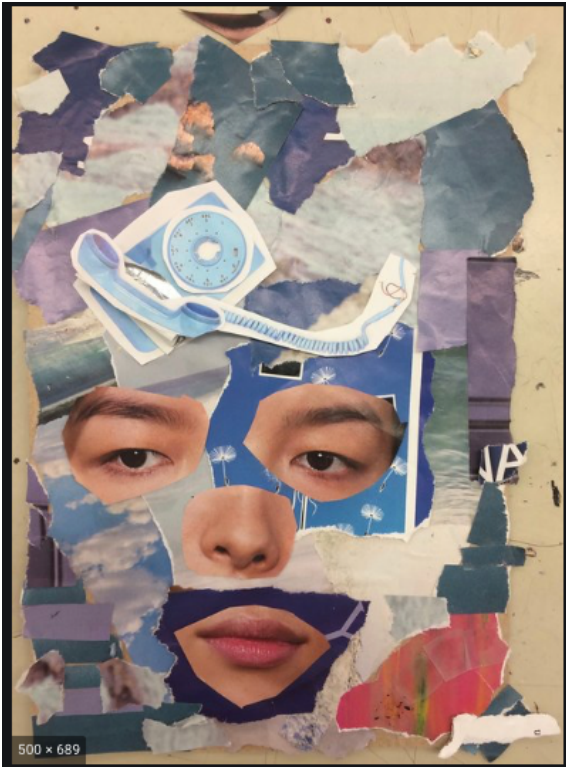


**Gilbert and George** always put themselves in their art works.

A portrait can show a relationship between people, animals and things.

**Jordan Casteel** has painted Yvonne and James. What is their story?





A way to disguise a person is to depict them wearing a mask or maybe re-arrange the pieces of their face in a collage. Like **John Stezaker**.

If you're still looking for ideas, you can find more detailed resources below

- » Justin Alder's photo-montage resource - [www.youtube.com/watch?v=ns--SKdLTWU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ns--SKdLTWU)
- » Jason Wilsher-Mills design your own superhero resource - [www.anewdirection.org.uk/asset/4597/view](http://www.anewdirection.org.uk/asset/4597/view)
- » Beata's 2020 portrait collage - [www.anewdirection.org.uk/asset/4596/view](http://www.anewdirection.org.uk/asset/4596/view)