



Studio Sunday March 2018 Activity Storytelling Through Portraits

Pair portraits from the Crosscurrents: American and European Portrait Photographs, 1840–1900 exhibition to create your own visual story. Select two reproductions of “characters” that might be engaged in a relationship or conversation, then colorize the images with oil pastels.



For this project, you will need:

- Construction paper
- Scissors
- Glue stick
- Oil pastels
- Paint brush
- Baby oil
- Reproductions of portrait images

Reproductions of portraits from Crosscurrents: American and European Portrait Photographs, 1840–1900.

Let's begin!

1. Choose two portraits as characters for your story.
2. Rough cut the images.
3. Color in details with oil pastels.
4. Blend the colors with baby oil using a paint brush.
5. Trim the edges of your image carefully.
6. Arrange and glue the images on your construction paper canvas.

Tips & Tricks

- When choosing your portraits, think about them as characters in a story. Who are they? How do they relate to each other? What story do you want to tell?
- If you don't have baby oil at home, that's ok! Try experimenting with other types of oils that you might find in your kitchen, like vegetable oil or olive oil.
- Don't worry about coloring in the lines! You'll trim your portraits carefully to clean up the edges before you glue them to your construction paper canvas.
- Consider creating a whole book of stories with the portraits! Can you think of other characters that you would like to include in your story?





