Sketchbook ideas: Portraits

Recording your thoughts ...

- > What words describe this person?
- > What might s/he be thinking? feeling?
- > Does s/he remind you of anyone you know?
- > What is the artist trying to say about this person?

Good galleries to explore:

Gallery 2: Human Image Gallery 43: Italian Renaissance Gallery 44: European Art Gallery 45: Dutch Art Gallery 65: Pissaro Gallery 62: Modern Art



George Drummond by Thomas Gainsborough, c 1780 Gallery 44: European Art (WA1955.62)

Big, important, grand - this particular style of portrait was popular in England in the 1700s and is known as a 'Grand Manner' portrait.



Jeanne holding a fan by Camille Pissarro, 1873 Gallery 65: Pissarro (WA1952.6.2) Jeanne-Rachel, ('Minette') was Pissarro's daughter. She died shortly after this portrait was painted.



Ideal Head by Antonio Canova, 1817 Gallery 49: Britain & Italy (WA1996.395)

Canova wanted to create an ideal of perfection. Notice how he has paid as much attention to the back of the sculpture as the profile.



Elias Ashmole, by John Riley, c 1681

Gallery 7: Ark to Ashmolean (WA1898.36) Meet the man from whom the Museum takes it's name! Ashmole is shown with medals and books that indicate his scholarly interests.



Portrait of a Man playing the Bagpipes, by Hendrick ter Brugghen, c 1620 Gallery 45: Dutch Art (WA1944.101)

The realism of this portrait is characteristic of Dutch art at this time.





Orovida Pissarro by Carel Weight, 1956

Gallery 62: Modern Art (WA1958.54)

Orovida is surrounded by things that reflect her personality, interests and family history. She was the granddaughter of the Impressionist painter, Camille Pissarro.



Head Study by David Tindle, 1993 Gallery 62: Modern Art (WA1993.541)

Contemporary study of a female model.

Further resources

Ashmolean Education: www.ashmolean.org/learning-resources

Artefact, artist's resource for secondary teachers: www.museums.ox.ac.uk/artefact/