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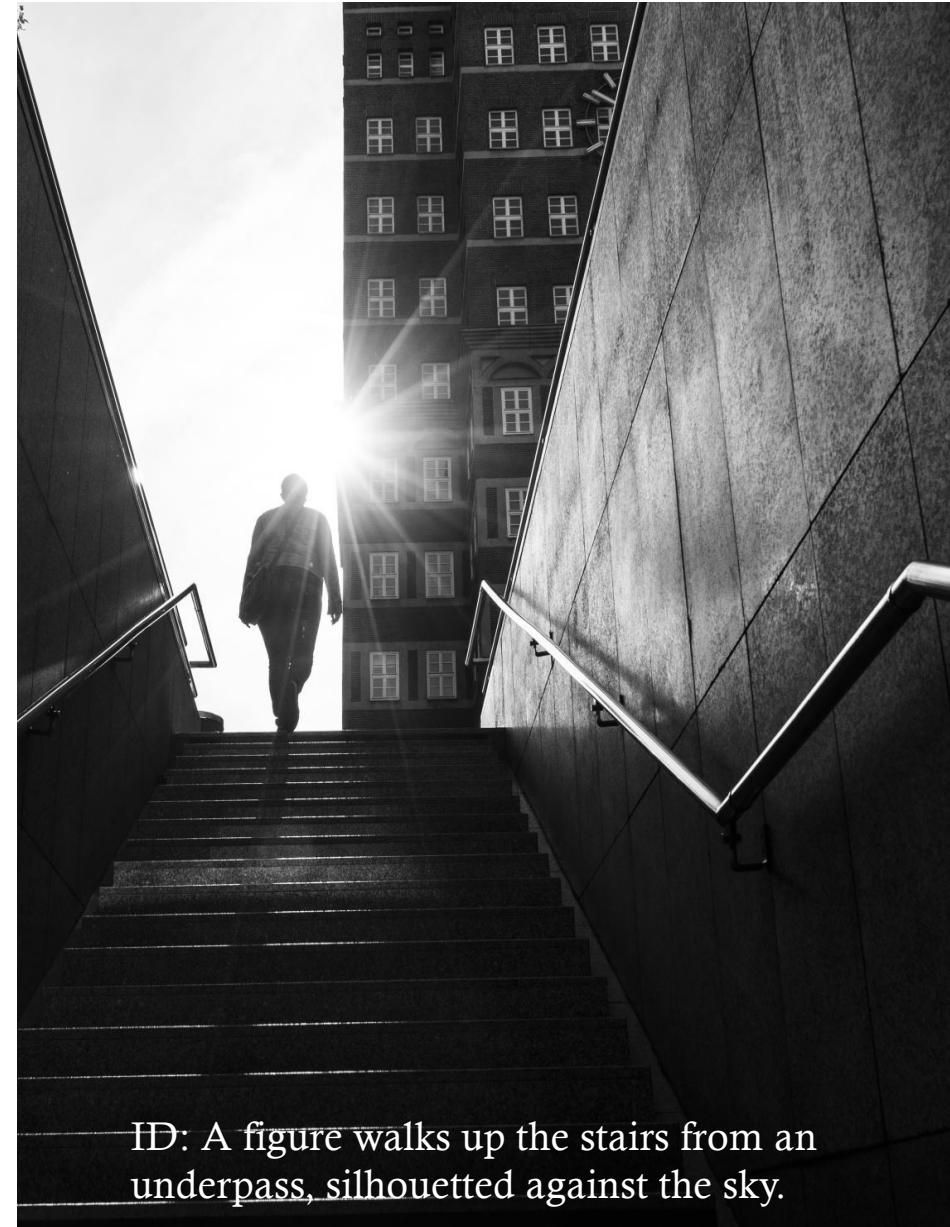
# APPROACHES TO PORTRAITS

By Zoë Brigley

Inspired by Artists from Ohio for the Women of Ohio Project, [womenofohio.com](http://womenofohio.com)



GREATER  
COLUMBUS  
ARTS  
COUNCIL



ID: A figure walks up the stairs from an underpass, silhouetted against the sky.

THESE SLIDES MAY NOT  
BE NECESSARY FOR  
SOME ARTISTS  
ENTERING OUR  
COMPETITION, BUT THEY  
ARE DESIGNED TO BE A  
WAY TO GENERATE  
IDEAS AND START  
DISCUSSION.



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THERE ARE MANY METHODS FOR CAPTURING A PERSON IN ART. PORTRAITS CAN BE TRADITIONAL, EXPERIMENTAL, PARTIAL OR ABSTRACT, AND WE EXPLORE THAT IN THESE EXAMPLES FROM OHIO ARTISTS.

ID: A black figure is shot from behind with the wind blowing their hair.



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## TAKE A MOMENT TO CONSIDER THIS PAINTING BY GEORGE BELLOWS

**George Bellows** (American, 1882-1925)

*Emma in the Purple Dress*

1919

Oil on panel

128.27 x 107.95 x 8.89cm (50 1/2 x 42 1/2  
x 3 1/2 in.)

Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Gift  
of Raymond J. and Margaret Horowitz

© Digital Image (C) 2009 Museum  
Associates / LACMA / Art Resource, NY

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# HERE ARE SOME IMPORTANT FACTS TO KNOW ON GEORGE BELLOWS FROM THE MET MUSEUM WEBSITE

- George Bellows (1882–1925) was regarded as one of America's greatest artists when he died, at the age of forty-two, from a ruptured appendix.
- Born and raised in Columbus, Ohio, Bellows attended Ohio State University, where his athletic talents presaged a future in professional sports and his illustrations for the student yearbook heralded a career as an artist.
- Bellows never traveled abroad but learned from the European masters by seeking out their works in museums, including The Metropolitan Museum of Art, where he was a regular visitor.

Read more about George at: <https://tinyurl.com/womenofohiobellows>

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# THE IDEA OF PORTRAIT PAINTING WAS TO CAPTURE A POWERFUL SENSE OF A PERSON IN ART.

Notice how Emma in Bellow's painting looks less than comfortable. Her eyes are not looking at the viewer, but gaze dreamily away, as if wishing she was something else. She is dressed sumptuously, but her posture is stuff. Her loose hands in her lap look as if she is wishing to grasp something.

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LET'S LOOK AT ANOTHER PORTRAIT  
– A MORE MODERN ONE USING  
PHOTOGRAPHY FROM ANN  
HAMILTON

*ONE EVER YONE* □

*Clarence,*

*ONE EVER YONE* □

*St. Louis*

George Warren Brown

School of Social

Work Washington

University • St. Louis,  
Missouri 2014-2015

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## HERE ARE SOME IMPORTANT FACTS TO KNOW ON OHIO ARTIST ANN HAMILTON

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Ann Hamilton is a visual artist internationally recognized for her large-scale multimedia installations, public projects, and performance collaborations.

Born in Lima, Ohio, in 1956, Ann has served on the faculty of The Ohio State University since 2001, where she is a Distinguished University Professor in the Department of Art.

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## ANN HAMILTON'S PORTRAIT OF CLARENCE – NOTES PARAPHRASED FROM THE ARTIST'S WEBSITE

For the project *One Everyone*, random volunteers were photographed through a semi-transparent membrane that registers in focus only what immediately touches its surface, while the rest of the body is more softly outlined. The subject cannot see the camera, and so the resulting portraits share an ethereal quality. The picture of Clarence in his cosy hat and winter coat nevertheless captures an expression of intense inward focus as the subject—unable to see behind the membrane—seems to shed recognition of the camera and concentrates on the artist's verbal prompts.

“Faces are elusive, obscured by the material that only renders sharply the contact of touch. By trading literal appearance for a less tangible resemblance, a different kind of portrait emerges—one that is at once intimate and ineffable.”

Read more at: [annhamiltonstudio.com](http://annhamiltonstudio.com)

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NOW LET'S CONSIDER A DIFFERENT KIND OF PORTRAIT WITH MORE DETAILS OF A PERSON'S LIFE. THIS ONE IS BY THE COLUMBUS ARTIST AMINAH ROBINSON AND IT IS DEDICATED TO DR. SELMA H. BURKE, A SCULPTOR.

Aminah Robinson | DR. SELMA BURKE | Mixed media on paper | 13 x 20 1/4" | 1988

# DR. SELMA H. BURKE

## THE SCULPTOR WHO CREATED THE IMAGE OF FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT ON THE DIME

©1988 Animal Awareness by Bernadine Rose Letter Series  
Burke grew up on the banks of North Carolina where  
she first saw her sculpture of Franklin D. Roosevelt on the  
dime. She has been working on her sculpture of Franklin  
D. Roosevelt on the dime for many years.

CENTER

The Martin Luther King Jr.  
Center for Performing & Cultural

167 Mt. Vernon Avenue  
P.O. Box 2581  
Columbus, Ohio 43216

DR. SELMA H. BURKE  
BORN 1900 Moreeville, North Carolina

SCULPTOR, Nurse,  
Educator and the Artist  
who put Roosevelt on the  
Dime.



8

©1988 Animal Awareness by Bernadine Rose Letter Series

UNWRITTEN

ART

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# IMPORTANT THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT OHIO ARTIST AMINAH ROBINSON FROM THE WEBSITE *AMINAH'S WORLD*



Ohio, artist Aminah Brenda Lynn Robinson (1940-2015) created magical two- and three-dimensional works of art.



Aminah Robinson's work is a highlight of the collections of the Columbus Museum of Art



For almost seven decades, she created art that she described as “filling in the blank pages of American history.” She did this by depicting the lives and events of both ordinary and extraordinary African Americans.



Read more at: <https://www.aminahsworld.org>

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# WHO WAS SELMA BURKE (1900-1995)? FACTS FROM THE NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MUSEUM

- Selma Burke discovered her love for sculpture as a young child and followed her passion to Harlem Renaissance New York, Parisian art studios, and even the White House.
- "One day, I was mixing the clay and I saw the imprint of my hands," she told the *New York Post* in 1945. "I found that I could make something... something that I alone had created."
- Aminah's tribute to Selma Burke is unique and full of important information. It reminds us of the influence of "her mother who taught her needle and button work while her father taught her to draw, make books from homemade paper, and sculpt using a homemade material they called "hogmawg," a collection of mud, clay, twigs, leaves, lime, animal grease, and glue" (Columbus Museum of Art).
- Note how Aminah places around her subject pieces of information and images that were important to her life.

Read more about Selma Burke at <https://tinyurl.com/ohiowomenlink2>

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OTHER IDEAS...

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CREATE AN ABSTRACT  
PORTRAIT LIKE CLEVELAND  
ARTIST MARISA DE MARIA  
– SEE THIS PHOTOGRAPH  
OF THE ARTIST AND A  
PAINTING OF ADULT AND  
CHILD

SEE  
[HTTPS://WWW.MARISADE  
MARIA.COM](https://www.marisade.com)





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CAPTURE PEOPLE WHEN  
THEY ARE ABSORBED IN  
SOMETHING ELSE LIKE  
OHIO ARTIST CARL  
SAMPSON'S *SUNDAY  
RESPITE*, 26" X 22", OIL ON  
LINEN CANVAS

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# CREATE A SKETCH LIKE THIS VIVID, COMEDIC PORTRAIT FROM NORA DANIEL

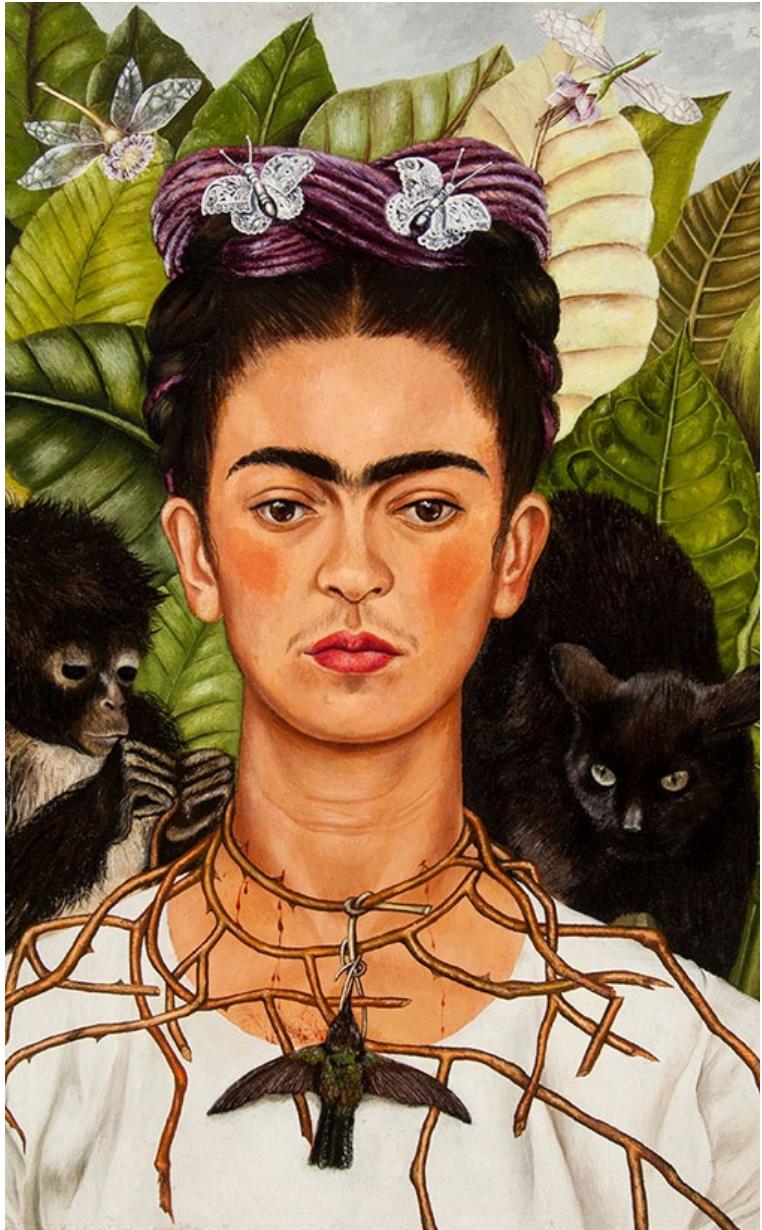


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**MASKS TO REPRESENT  
PEOPLE – SEE OUR  
WORKSHOP ON MASK  
MAKING BASED ON THE  
WORK OF KIMMY  
CANTRELL**

<https://womenofohio.com/lesson-plan-for-art-teachers/>





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THERE IS ALSO AN EXERCISE LOOKING AT FRIDA KAHLO'S PAINTING STYLE WHICH INCLUDES SYMBOLS AROUND THE SUBJECT TO REPRESENT THEIR EMOTIONAL STATE

- Frida Kahlo (Mexican, 1907–1954), Untitled [Self-portrait with thorn necklace and hummingbird], 1940. Oil on canvas mounted to board. Nickolas Muray Collection of Mexican Art, 66.6 © 2020 Banco de México Diego Rivera Frida Kahlo Museums Trust, Mexico, D.F. / Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York

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**GOOD LUCK!**



Contact: [womenofohio@gmail.com](mailto:womenofohio@gmail.com)