



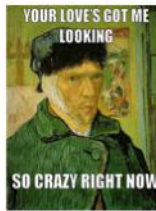
Masterpiece Makeover 2019

Art 2

This is a lesson that I developed for my Art 2 class a few years back when I taught the class and now I am teaching it again this year. The project is based on giving a “new spin” on an old painting.

This was a collaboration with a colleague, and we added a few more choices of artists at the end of the PowerPoint for the students to choose from, giving the project more variety. The students did a fabulous jobs!

Masterpiece Makeover



Then: Grant Wood intended this painting to be a positive statement about rural American values; an image of reassurance at a time of great dislocation and disillusionment. At the time the people of Iowa didn't like the painting; they were furious at their depiction as "pinched, grim-faced, puritanical Bible-thumpers"



Now: I chose to remake this image into a cartoon. This image was originally very realistic looking and I liked the idea of turning these very serious looking people into bugs with large yellow heads and big eyes. I like the flat, graphic look of cartoon images.

Objective: You are to use your own vision and artistic style to rework one of the famous portraits on the other side of this page. Pick the image that appeals to you the most and update it in some way.

There are many ways to approach this assignment. We are looking for you to show us your creativity and personal drawing style.

1. **Mona Lisa** and **Girl with a Pearl Earring** examples show the same realistic style of the original but the images have been altered. Mona got a new hairdo and each image has been altered with modern elements such as sunglasses, guitar, and camera.
2. **Self Portrait with Bandaged Ear** shows a recreation of the original image with song lyrics added. The lyrics relate to the circumstances surrounding Van Gogh cutting his ear off.
3. **American Gothic** has been recreated in cartoon form. The composition remains the same but the realistic style of the original has been replaced with a brighter, more graphic style and the people have been turned into bugs.

To Do:

1. Pick the image that you think you can be most successful recreating.
2. On 9"x12" paper create your altered image. Your image should be executed primarily in colored pencil but you can use marker and/or other mixed media to add to your image.

For example: you might create the *Mona Lisa* in colored pencil and then **collage** on a headband or give her a marker tattoo.

3. When you are done you will mount a color copy of the original next to your version on a large piece of white paper.
4. Below each image you will give the viewer some insight into the image. This will require you to research the original image to have a few things to say about it. You can talk about the artist's style, composition, or inspiration. Under your image you will explain why you chose the image and style techniques you used.

Good Luck!



Portrait Painting

Portraits are more than works of art; they are also important parts of history. They represent the only images we have of those who lived before the days of photography. They give us an idea of what historical figures looked like, and also serve as cultural indicators through the fashions and decorations used. There are many famous portrait paintings by well known artists, but the ones below are particularly well known and significant in art history.

Mona Lisa

Leonardo da Vinci painted the Mona Lisa between 1503 and 1506. The original name of the painting was Mona Lisa. Mona, in Italian, was a common Italian shortening of Madonna, meaning "my lady." It is the portrait of Lisa Gherardini, the wife of Francesco del Giocondo, a wealthy silk merchant. The painting was commissioned to celebrate the birth of their second child. This portrait is quite possibly the most well-known painting in the world, and also one of the most studied. Even today, people are still analyzing the painting and debating the meaning of Mona's mysterious smile. The painting has its own climate controlled room in the Louvre Museum in Paris and is insured.

Girl with a Pearl Earring

This portrait was painted by Johannes Vermeer around 1665. It's often called the "Mona Lisa of the North" or the "Dutch Mona Lisa". It was originally titled "Girl with a Turban", but the name was changed in the second half of the twentieth century. It is considered one of Vermeer's major masterpieces. The focal point of the painting is the reflective pearl earring, although some believe the real focal point of the painting is the way the girl's eyes interact with the person viewing the painting. The subject may be Vermeer's daughter Maria, who would have been about 12 at the time, but scholars aren't sure. Vermeer never identified any sitter posing for any of his portraits.



Self Portrait with a Bandaged Ear

Van Gogh did not have money to pay models to pose for portraits so he painted himself. He painted over 30 self-portraits between the years 1886 and 1889. His collection of self-portraits places him among the most prolific self-portraitists of all time. This portrait, painted in 1889, shows him from a slight angle in a room of the Yellow House (where he lived at the time) wearing a green overcoat and a fur-lined winter cap. He cut off his own ear shortly before creating this painting after an argument with his friend Paul Gauguin (another well-known painter). His right ear is bandaged in the portrait though in reality the wound was to his left ear, the discrepancy is due to his painting while looking in a mirror.

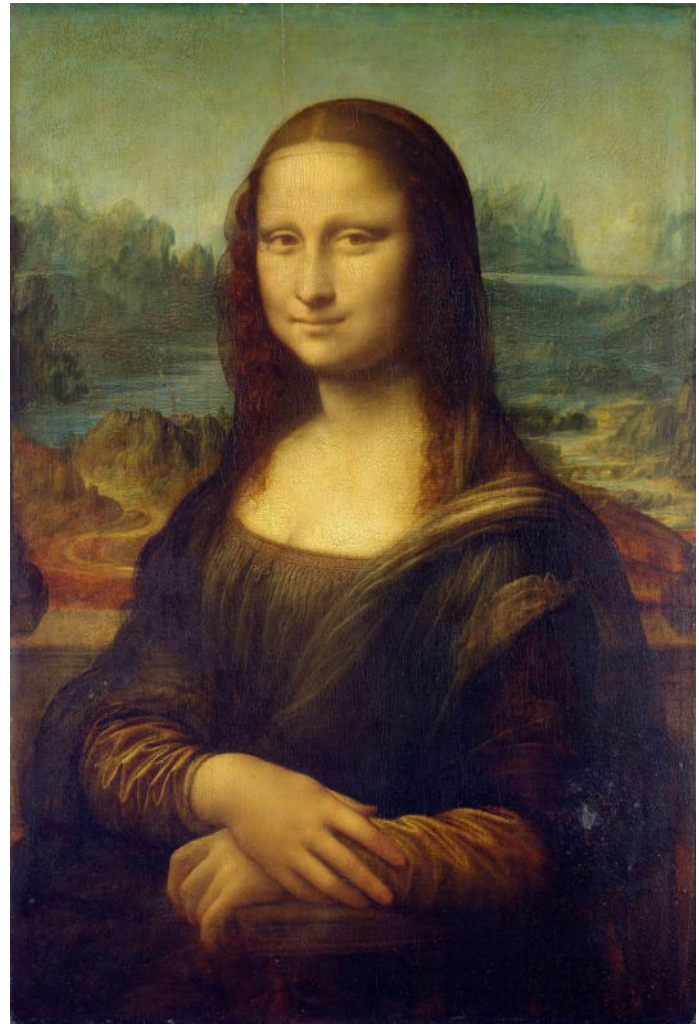
American Gothic

This is one of the most familiar images in 20th-century American art, painted by Grant Wood in 1930. It is a depiction of a farmer and his Plain-Jane daughter - The Great Depression personified. In August 1930, Grant Wood was driving around the town of Eldon,

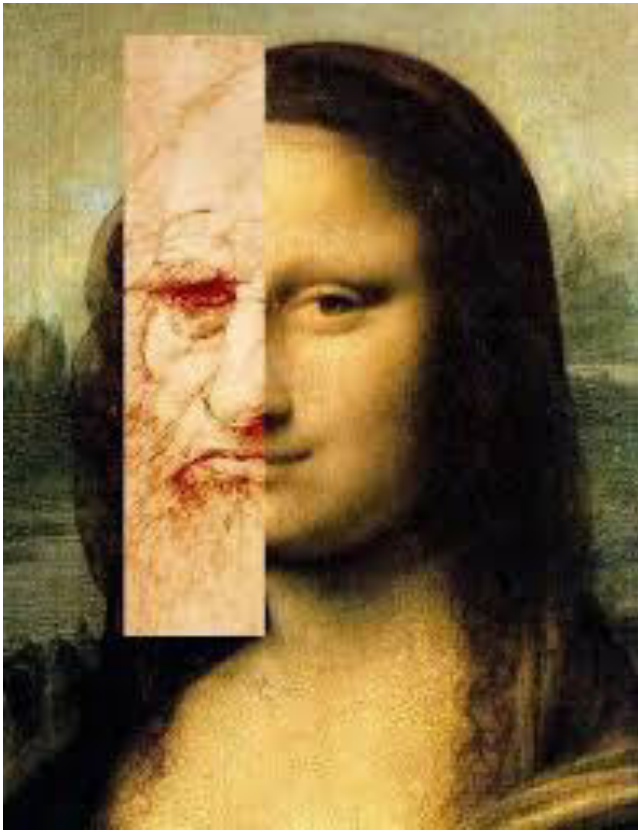
Iowa looking for inspiration. He noticed a small white house built in the *Carpenter Gothic* architectural style and considered it "very paintable." He decided to paint the house along with "the kind of people I fancied should live in that house." He used his sister Nan to model the woman, dressing her in a colonial print apron mimicking 19th-century Americana. The model for the farmer is Wood's dentist.



The Mona Lisa is a famous 16th-century portrait by [Leonardo da Vinci](#). The true identity of the woman pictured in the portrait remains unknown, despite intensive research by art historians. Many believe the Mona Lisa to be a portrait of Lisa Gherardini Giocondo, the wife of a wealthy Florentine merchant. It is known that Leonardo began the portrait in Florence in 1503, continued work on it through 1506, and then kept the painting until his death in 1519. Over the next three centuries the Mona Lisa passed through many hands, even hanging for a time in the bedroom of Napoleon, but since 1804 its home has been the Louvre Museum in Paris.







It has been suggested that the Mona Lisa might be a self-portrait, with da Vinci imaging himself as a woman.

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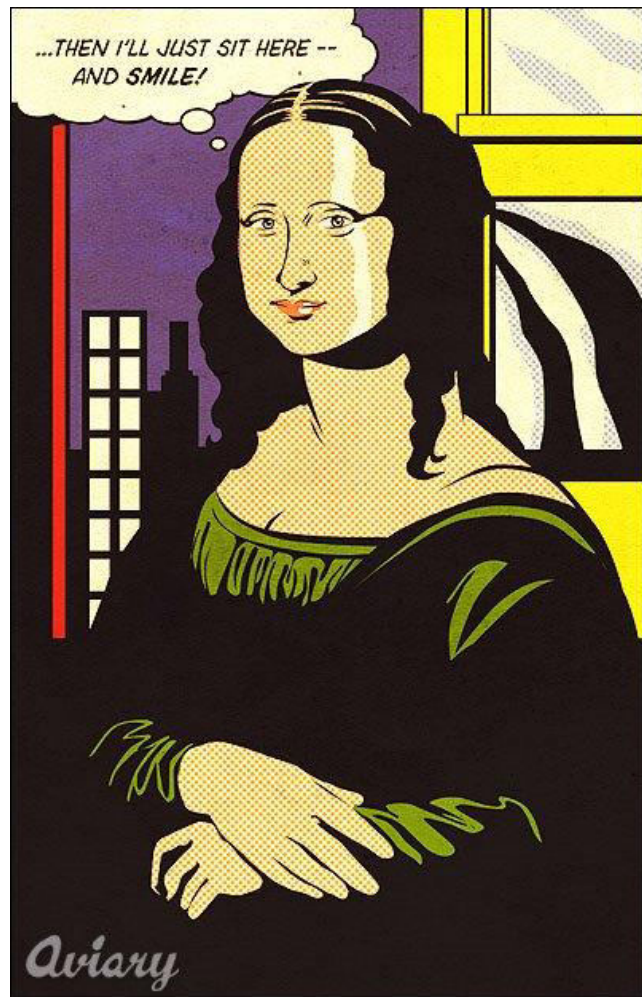


American Gothic

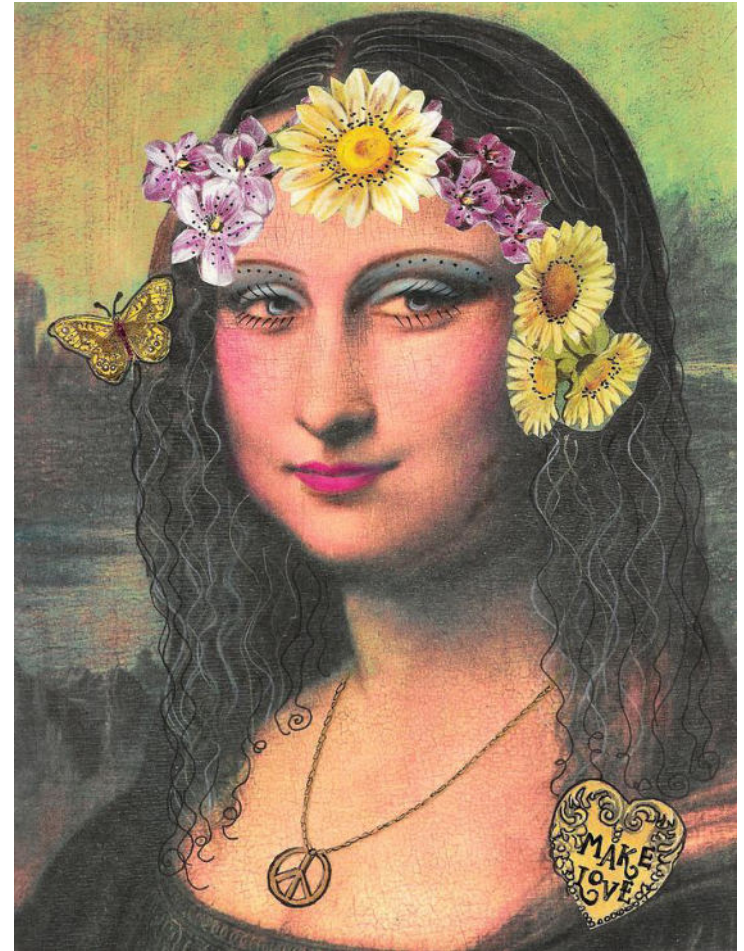
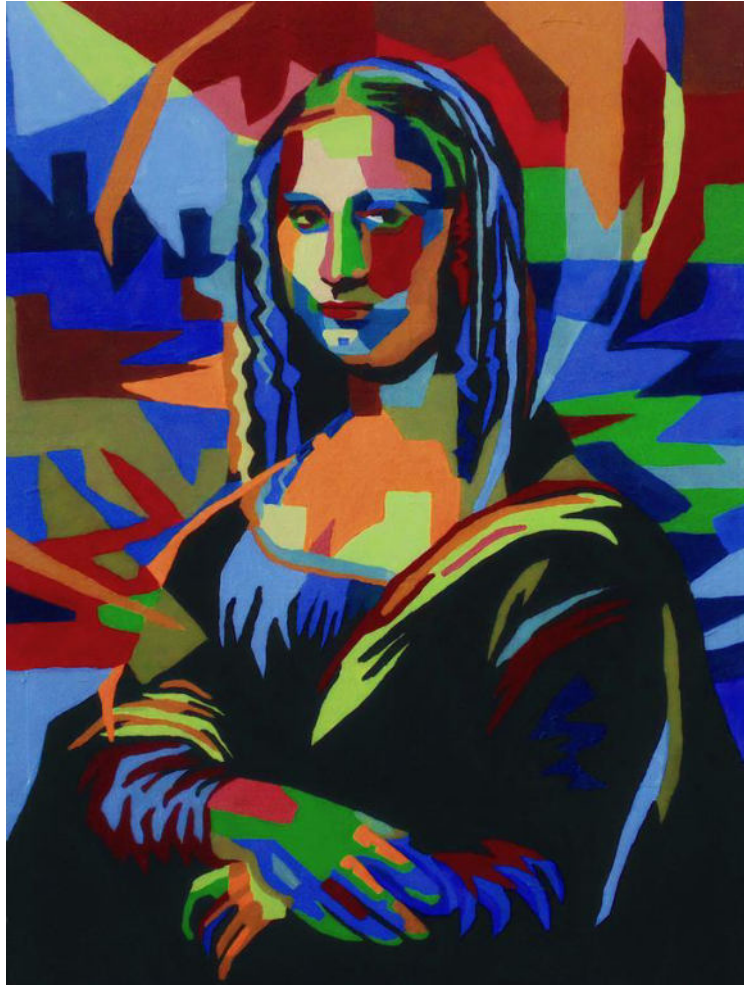
This is one of the most familiar images in 20th-century American art, painted by Grant Wood in 1930. It is a depiction of a farmer and his daughter Jane - The Great Depression personified. In August 1930, Grant Wood was driving around the town of Eldon, Iowa looking for inspiration. He noticed a small white house built in the Carpenter Gothic architectural style and considered it "very paintable." He decided to paint the house along with "the kind of people I fancied should live in that house." He used his sister Nan to model the woman, dressing her in a colonial print apron mimicking 19th-century Americana. The model for the farmer is Wood's dentist.

**How will you “makeover” your
masterpiece?**

**Will you choose one of these or another
self-portrait?**

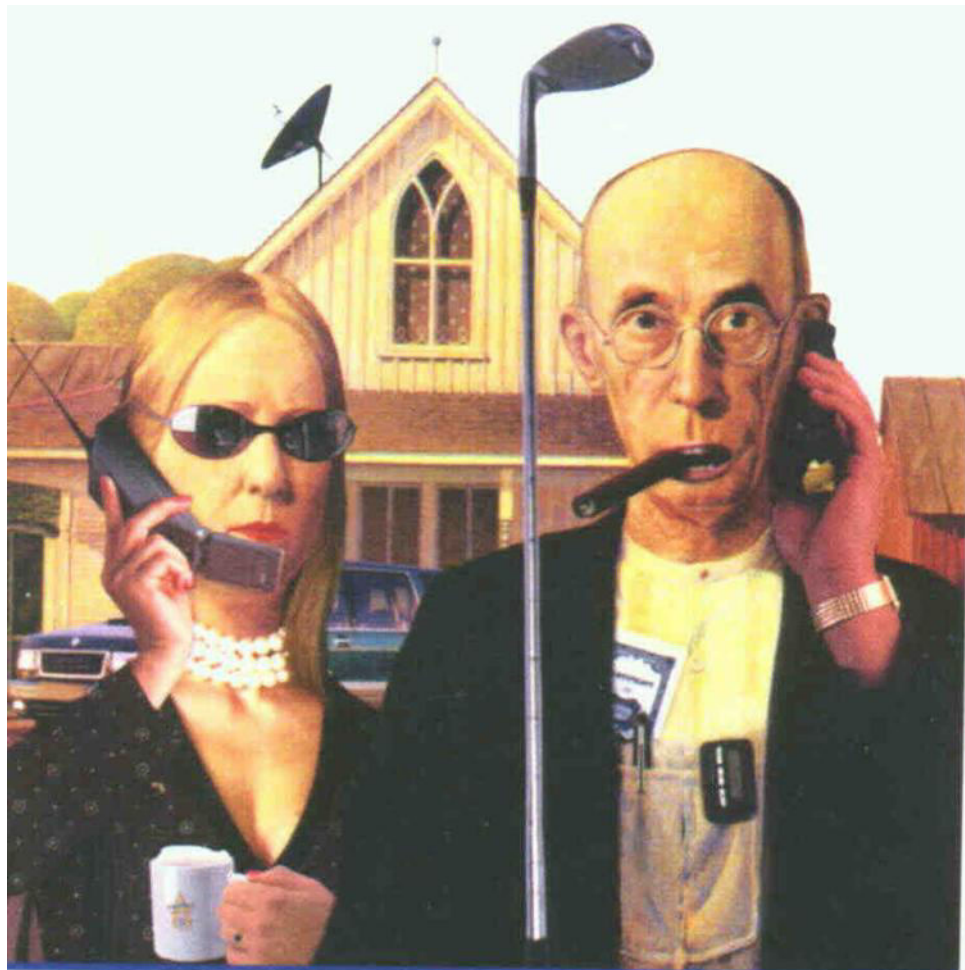


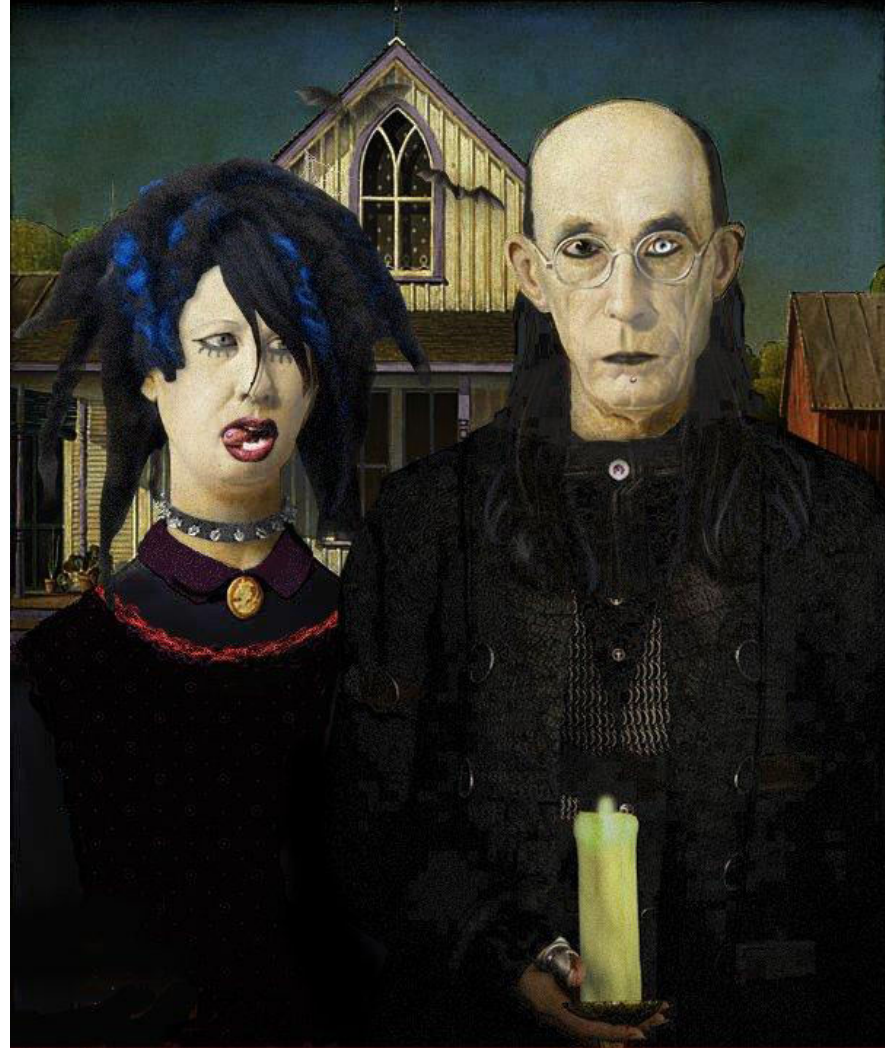














Old Example



Girl with a Pearl Earring

THEN:

This portrait was painted by Johannes Vermeer around 1665. It is often called the "Mona Lisa of the North" or the "Dutch Mona Lisa". Its original title was "Girl with a Turban" but it was changed in the second half of the 20th century. It is one of Vermeer's masterpieces. The focal point of the painting is the reflection of the girl's earring, but some people believe that her eyes are the focal point. The girl is identified. However, some believe



NOW:

This is my version of the Girl with a Pearl Earring. I made the mysterious girl into a hippie from the 1960s. I added peace signs to her headband and tie-dye colors to her turban. I made the picture so that it appeared like she was holding a peace-sign up. I also added a quote from the hippies in the 1960s and a rainbow in the background. I kept key elements, such as the colors of the face, the pearl earring, and her eyes/face.

Old Example



Then:

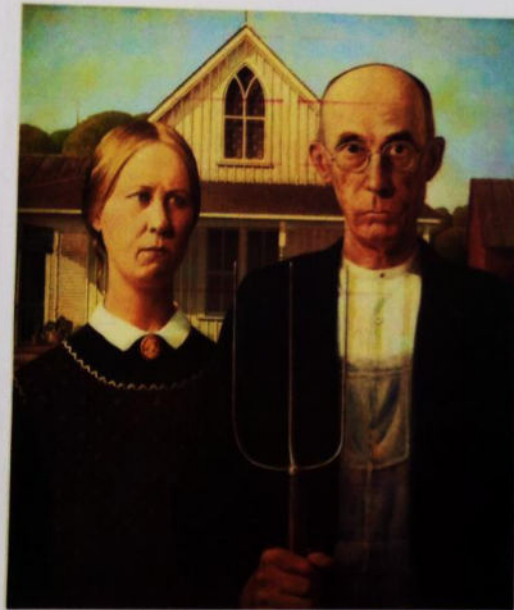
Van Gogh created this self portrait in 1889, and shortly before making this painting he was in an argument with Paul Gauguin. None the less, this portrait portrays his bandaged ear, well where his ear was, after he had cut it off; there are many stories as to why he did it, but no one really knows.



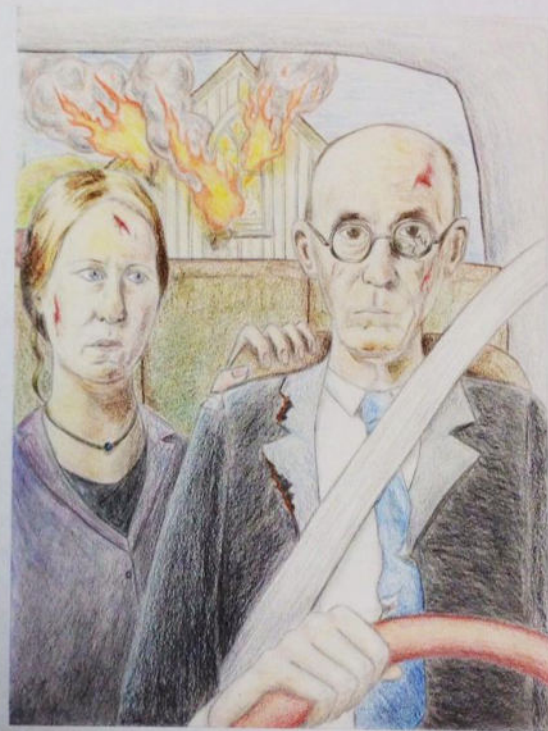
Now:

In the recreation I made, not much was changed. I kept the key elements of the green jacket, fur-lined hat, and ofcourse the bandaged ear. The aspect that I did change, however, was his abstract style into a cubist portrait.

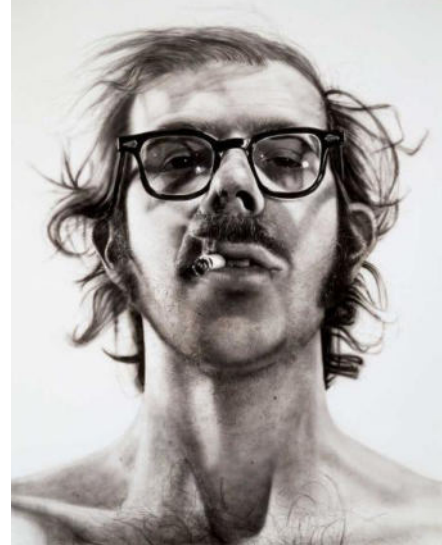
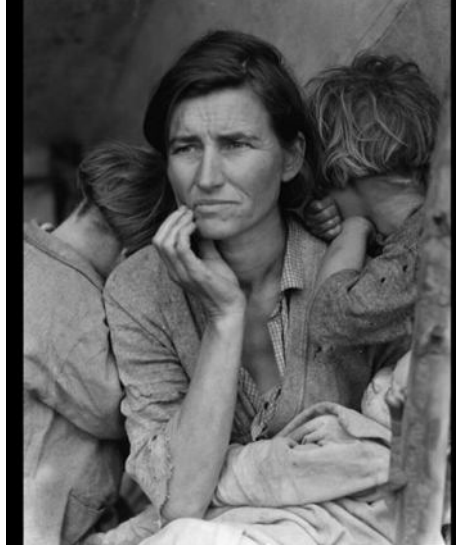
Old Example



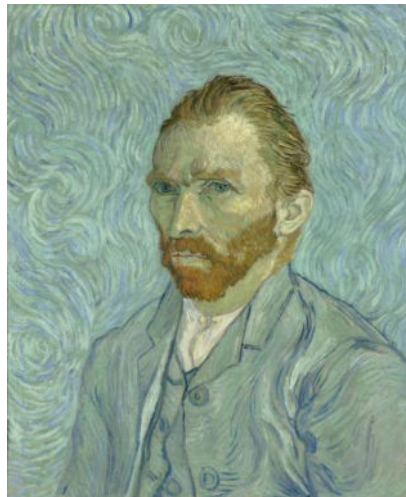
Then: Originally, the farmer and wife were very humble-looking. Grant Wood painted this to depict an image of the great depression of rural America. It was meant to be relatable to farmers.



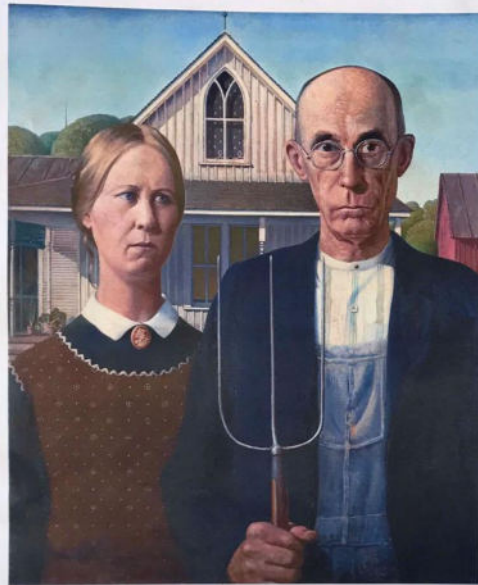
Now: I thought it would be interesting to turn the static posing of the farmer and his wife into an action sequence in which they are driving away from a burning house. I felt the solemn expressions transitioned over from the original quite well.



Other possible self portraits you can use for your project.



This year's Student Projects



Then

This painting, done by Grant Wood, represents the Great Depression through a man and woman. Known as American Gothic, the painting also includes a background of a gothic style house further representing the style of the time period.

Now

Within this drawing I altered the previous painting by changing the man and woman into an angel and the devil. I also changed the background in order to match their personas and further contrast light and darkness.

This year's Student Projects



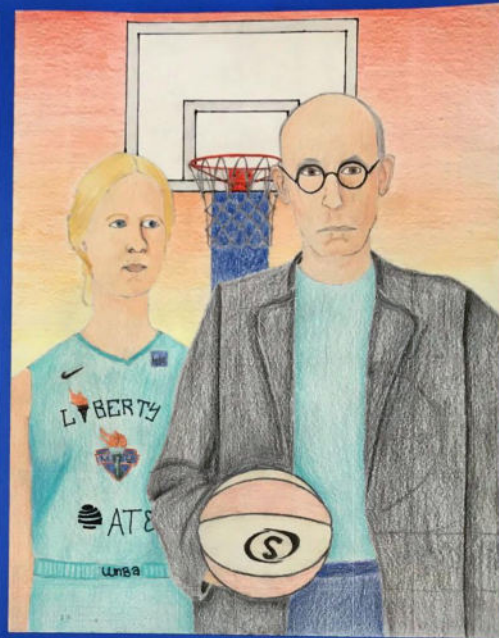
Then:

From the moment I saw Frida Kahlo's Self Portrait I I was immediatly inspired. Frida was a Mexican painter who made many self portraits. Although her beauty was not conventional, she found herself beautiful none the less.

Now:

The first thing I noticed in Frida's painting was the thorns around her neck, and I immediatly thought of sleeping beauty. In the movie she pricks her finger on a spinning wheel and her castle becomes shrouded with thorns. Aurora also is famous for her beauty just like Frida.

This year's Student Projects



DA Luis de Bento Martin

Then

This is one of the most familiar images in 20th-century American art, painted by Grant Wood in 1930. It is a depiction of a farmer and his Plain-Jane daughter - The Great Depression personified. He used his sister Jan to model the woman, dressing her in a colonial print apron mimicking 19th-century Americana. The model for the farmer is Wood's dentist.

Now

I recreated the people as they appear on the painting but I changed their clothes to basketball uniforms and the background to a basketball hoop, so it is related with something I like.

This year's Student Projects



THEN

"Self Portrait with a Bandaged Ear"

Van Gogh did not have money to pay models to pose for portraits so he painted himself. This portrait, painted in 1889, shows him from a slight angle in a room of the Yellow House wearing a green overcoat and a fur-lined winter cap. He cut off his own ear shortly before creating this painting after an argument with his friend Paul Gauguin. His right ear is bandaged in the portrait though in reality the wound was to his left ear; the discrepancy is due to his painting while looking in a mirror.



NOW

"The Mad Dog of Shimano
with a Bandaged Ear"

This is my own version of Van Gogh's "Self Portrait with a Bandaged Ear". The cap and the bandage remain in the picture but the difference is that it is a portrait of Goro Majima, an iconic character from SEGA's Yakuza (Ryu Ga Gotoku in Japan) series. This portrait shows Majima in his snakeskin jacket, eye patch, and he has part of his tattoos showing on his chest. There is also a painting of the sign of "Kamurocho" a fictional city based on Japan's red light district.

This year's Student Projects



Then

The Girl with the Pearl earring was painted by Johannes Vermeer. The focal point of this painting is the reflective earring. Many believe this is a self portrait of his daughter, Maria.



Now

I have changed 'The Girl with the Pearl Earring' to a hippie. I changed her hair to curly and orange, with a tie-dye head band, with sunglasses and a peace sign earring.

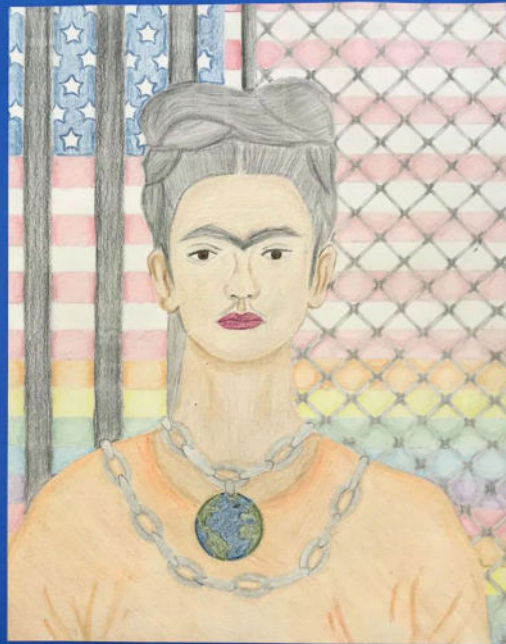
This year's Student Projects



"Self-Portrait with Thorn Necklace and Hummingbird"

Then

Above is Frida Kahlo's "Self-Portrait with Thorn Necklace and Hummingbird", painted in 1940. Frida is not trying to make a realistic scene, but is trying to express her feelings. Around Frida's neck is a thorn necklace with a hummingbird hanging from it. Usually birds symbolize life and freedom. However, this bird is black and lifeless. It is believed that Frida meant the bird as a symbol for herself. The thorn necklace is tight around her neck, she is bleeding and in pain, although she doesn't show it. The painting is about her pain, whether it be physical or emotional.



"Self-Portrait with Issues and Ignorance"

Now

The entire "New" portrait is a political statement, where nearly everything is a symbol for a problem or issue in the U.S. that people don't talk about or ignore. The background has 2 flags, the U.S. flag that represents the country/its people, and the LGBTQ+ flag, that represents issues in the LGBTQ+ community. The background also has prison bars, symbolizing mass incarceration on one side and a fence, symbolizing immigration detention centers and families being separated at the border, on the other. Frida Kahlo's shirt is orange to represent gun violence, mass shootings, and gun safety. The thorn necklace became a chain, symbolizing oppression of women and minorities (socially and economically). Hanging from it is a globe that symbolizes the climate change crisis. All of the above are issues many people in the U.S. are ignorant about or choose to ignore it (in my opinion).

This year's Student Projects



Then:

This painting was created by Johannes Vermeer around 1665. It is nicknamed the "Mona Lisa of the North." It was originally called the "Girl with the Turban." The focal point of the painting is the pearl earring, but some say it is the way the girl's eyes are looking at the person who's viewing. The model is unknown but some suspect it was Vermeer's 12 year old daughter.

Now:

I changed the painting by modernizing her, making her into a Heather from the movie Heathers. I put lockers in the background because the movie is set in a highschool. She also in the iconic red blazer that her character Heather Chandler wears, with a ponytail and red scrunchie.



Vermeer

The portrait was created by a student who had a strong interest in technology. He decided to update the painting by giving the girl a VR headset. He also changed her clothing to a modern, sporty style. The result is a new interpretation of the original painting that reflects the student's interests and skills.

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