

“Palatable Portraits”



Objective: Students will create realistic, nontraditional portraits that feature someone eating or drinking.

Materials

- Digital Camera and Printer
- Drawing Paper
- Drawing or Painting Materials

Motivation

- Ask students to think about the following questions: When do you look spectacular eating or drinking? At a coffee shop sipping a latte? At a fancy restaurant? When do you look terrible eating or drinking? Perhaps slumped on the couch, the Cheetos residue staining your face and fingers?
- Then ask them to think about which of these would make the better portrait and why. They'll be well on their way to interesting compositions!

Step 1: Take Photos

Each student needs a model, some food to feed to that model, and a camera to take the model's picture. A bride and groom stuffing cake into each others' faces? A little kid with a plate of spaghetti? A best friend devouring an energy drink? The possibilities are endless.

Step 2: Create Composition

Students can make choices about their compositions with guidance from the teacher. Be sure to address issues of cropping, the rule of thirds, background, etc.

Step 3: Draw or Paint!

This is where your teaching skills and knowledge come into play. If you're drawing with graphite, focus on shading, highlights, capturing detail, and realism. With colored pencil (like the example here), work on layering, creating solid colors, and blending your colors. If you're painting, talk about color mixing, painting techniques, and capturing details. This will be specific to your classroom and your students, but no matter the material, you can always share and demonstrate techniques your students can use.

Tip: Don't ignore the background! Even a simple background can add much-needed depth, context, and visual information that will strengthen the piece.