



2. PHOTO PORTRAITS ON DEMAND

DURATION

80' to 120'

INTRODUCTION

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

To question people's ability and power to make choices about their portrayals of other people. The importance of thinking about who we are going to portray, how and why, before making the photograph. Realizing that the photographic portrait can be more than a copy of what the person looks like and that each one of us have the right to decide about our own image. This workshop establishes commitments between the photographer and the person portrayed.

GOALS

- › To raise awareness about own and others' choices.
- › To stimulate thinking about own and others' privacy.
- › To give opportunities to use digital tools to create and edit images.

PREPARATION

Before the activity:

- › Collect photographic portraits and share them digitally with participants. See some authors at the references.
- › Prepare a private social media platform to share the participants' photographs (e-portfolio, padlet...).

Prepare the space/room:

- › Chairs and tables.
- › Internet access.
- › Video projector and a computer.
- › One smart phone per group of participants (minimum).

OPTIONAL: image edition apps.

DIGITAL SKILLS

LEVEL 2: creative use of digital tools.

STEP BY STEP

30' to 45'	The facilitator introduces the challenge to young people: "this workshop is like a game; you are the photographer and one of your partners will be portrayed." Next, the participants observe the portraits carefully and, with the orientation of the Facilitator, analyse them (according to the Model for image's analysis on Part 1, point 7 on the Educator's Guide). This will help to understand the relationship between the photographer's strategies and intentions when taking the picture. NOTE: participants can work in pairs and write their observations on a personal note book, to remember them later.
	The facilitator adds another element to make the new portrait: the person to be photographed has a condition for the photographer (the condition can be invented by the person to be photographed or by the facilitator). The photographer will have to agree to shoot according to that condition. The conditions can be very funny for they can be, for example: "I want to be photographed as if I were falling; I want to be photographed with one eye closed and the other open; I don't want my nose to be seen".
20' to 30'	Participants TAKE PICTURES: The elements of observation (the characteristics of the portrait) will be the basis for the photograph. The photographer will have to THINK HOW TO photograph the other according to the characteristics of the first portrait and with the condition that the portrayed imposes on him.
30' to 45'	Participants share their portraits - the ones you chose in the beginning and the ones you took. Use a private social network platform to share the results. Explain your choices and analyse with all the group. Revisit the workshop's purpose to question about people's capacity and power to make choices about portrait image.
	Has the answer to the question "What happens before the photograph happens: what are the choices of the photographer?" changed?

Ethics

The participants works can be shared online with the consent of participants or it can be kept offline. For more on privacy and personal data protection, consult [Educator's Guide Part 1, point 4, p. 5](#).

Assessment

Here the facilitator can find resources to carry out the assessment of the workshop.

Description and reference links

What makes a portrait? "The most important rule when making a portrait is that there are no rules. You can pose subjects or capture them naturally. You can choose to alter lighting in a studio or use natural lighting. There are no rules, but each decision we make changes how the viewer perceives the photograph. We each took these elements into consideration when making these portraits of friends, family, and strangers.":

<https://www.metmuseum.org/blogs/teen-blog/2016/portraits>

What is a portrait? "A portrait is an artwork that tells a person's story. The artwork can be made of any material, from painting on canvas to a piece of performance art!":

<https://www.nationalgallery.ie/art-and-artists/zurich-young-portrait-prize-2020/what-portrait>

"A portrait is a representation of a particular person. A self-portrait is a portrait of the artist by the artist":

<https://www.tate.org.uk/art/art-terms/p/portrait>

Example of some photographers to search:

Kishin Shinoyama, Richard Avedon, Krzysztof Gieraltowski, Dorothea Lange, Heinz Held, Seydou Keita, Herbert List, Charlotte March, Jurgen Klauke, Bill Brandt, Margaret Bourke-White, Aida Muluneh, Helena Almeida, David Goldblatt, Edward Steichen, Alphonse Bertillon, Barbara Morgan, Bragaglia, Cecil Beaton, Colin Jones, Ilse Bing, Julia Cameron, Louise Dahl-Wolf, Lajos Keresztes, Walker Evans, Ed Van der Elsken, Alexander Rodchenko, Annie Leibovitz, Diane Arbus.