

Mastering the Art of Portraits with Zara the Zebra

Learning objective: To understand the key techniques, terminology, and historical context of portraiture, including observation and expression.

Use these flashcards to test your knowledge of portraiture. Zara the Zebra wants you to look closely at faces and expressions to create your own masterpieces!

Portrait

A painting, drawing, photograph, or sculpture of a person or animal, usually focusing on their face and expression.

Self-portrait

A portrait that an artist creates of themselves, often used to explore their own personality or skills.

Proportion

The relationship between the sizes of different parts of the face, such as the distance between the eyes or the size of the nose compared to the chin.

Expression

The look on a person's face that communicates how they are feeling, such as joy, surprise, or contemplation.

Profile

A side view of a person's face, showing the outline of the forehead, nose, lips, and chin.

Medium

The material used to create the artwork, such as charcoal, graphite pencils, watercolour paints, or oil pastels.

Composition

The way an artist arranges the elements of a portrait within the frame to make the image look balanced and interesting.

Sketch

A quick, rough drawing that captures the main shapes and features of a subject before adding fine detail.

Shading

Using light and dark tones to make a portrait look three-dimensional and realistic by showing where the light hits the face.

Feature

A distinct part of the face, such as the eyes, nose, mouth, or ears, which helps us recognise a specific person.

Full-frontal

A portrait where the subject is looking directly at the artist, showing both sides of the face equally.

Perspective

The technique used to create the illusion of depth on a flat surface, ensuring the face looks realistic from a specific angle.