

Portraits

Making Portraits: Who am I and Who are You?

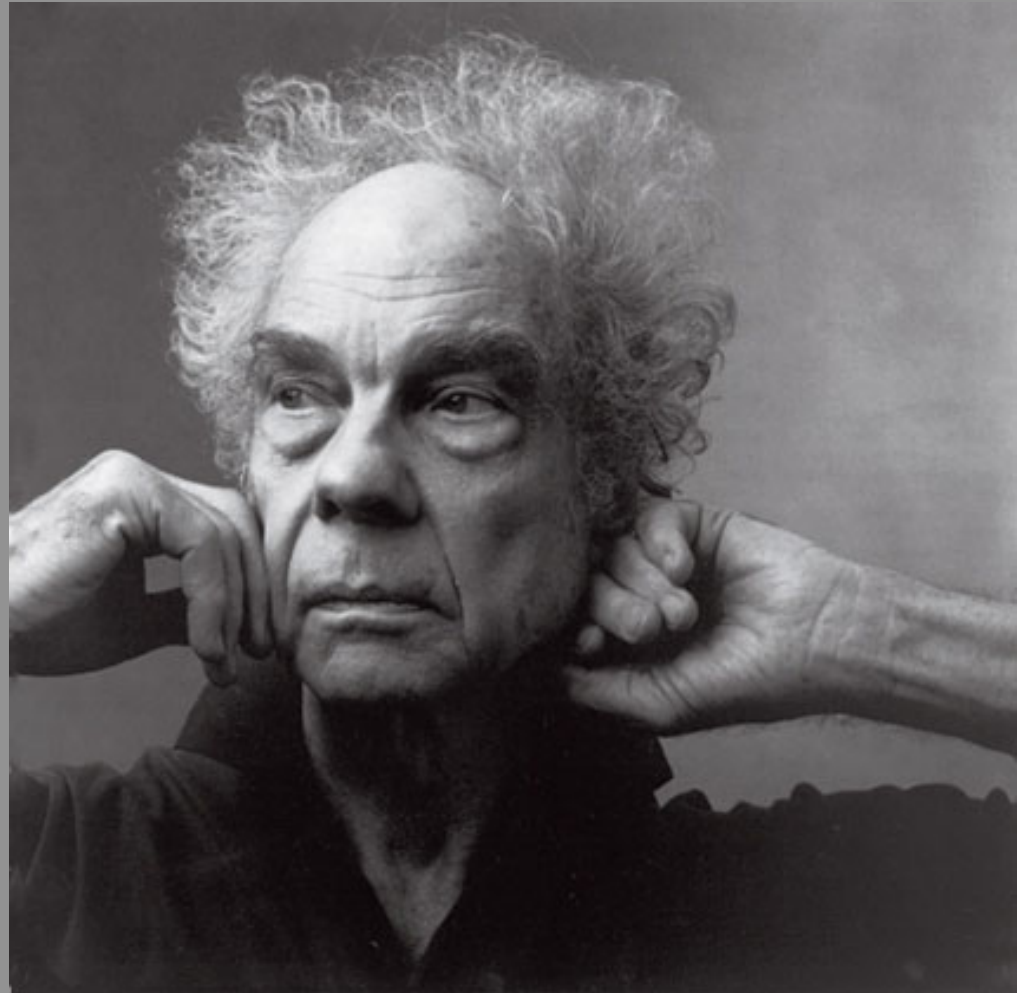
Self-portraits allow artists to show awareness of their own appearance and traits, producing evidence of the intricacies of their lives. Self-portraits may continue gazing back at viewers

Portrait of Another Person

Lasting portraits avoid the obvious and, in doing so, require the viewer's involvement to extract meaning.

Self-Portrait research

Before beginning a portrait or self-portrait, it is helpful to delve into the works of other artists who explored the self-portrait and note their research methodology, their lighting and compositional choices, and what ideas their works express. It is the ideas that continue to make their images worth studying.



Annie Leibovitz, Self-portrait. **Self-portraits** allow artists to show awareness of their own appearance and traits, producing evidence of the intricacies of their lives. Self-portraits may continue gazing back at viewers and **Merce Cunningham**. Lasting **portraits** avoid the obvious and, in doing so, require the viewer's involvement to extract meaning.

Self-Portrait and Portrait

Portraits can be:

1. Pictures of a person
2. Pictures of a person in a particular costume
3. Pictures of a person in a particular situation
4. Pictures of objects related to a person

Portraits can be:

1. Individual
2. Family
3. Cultural



Diane Arbus, portraits. What do these portraits say about these people?



Cindy Sherman, What do these self-portraits say about the artist? She titles them, “Untitled” what does that say about what the artist wants us to think about?

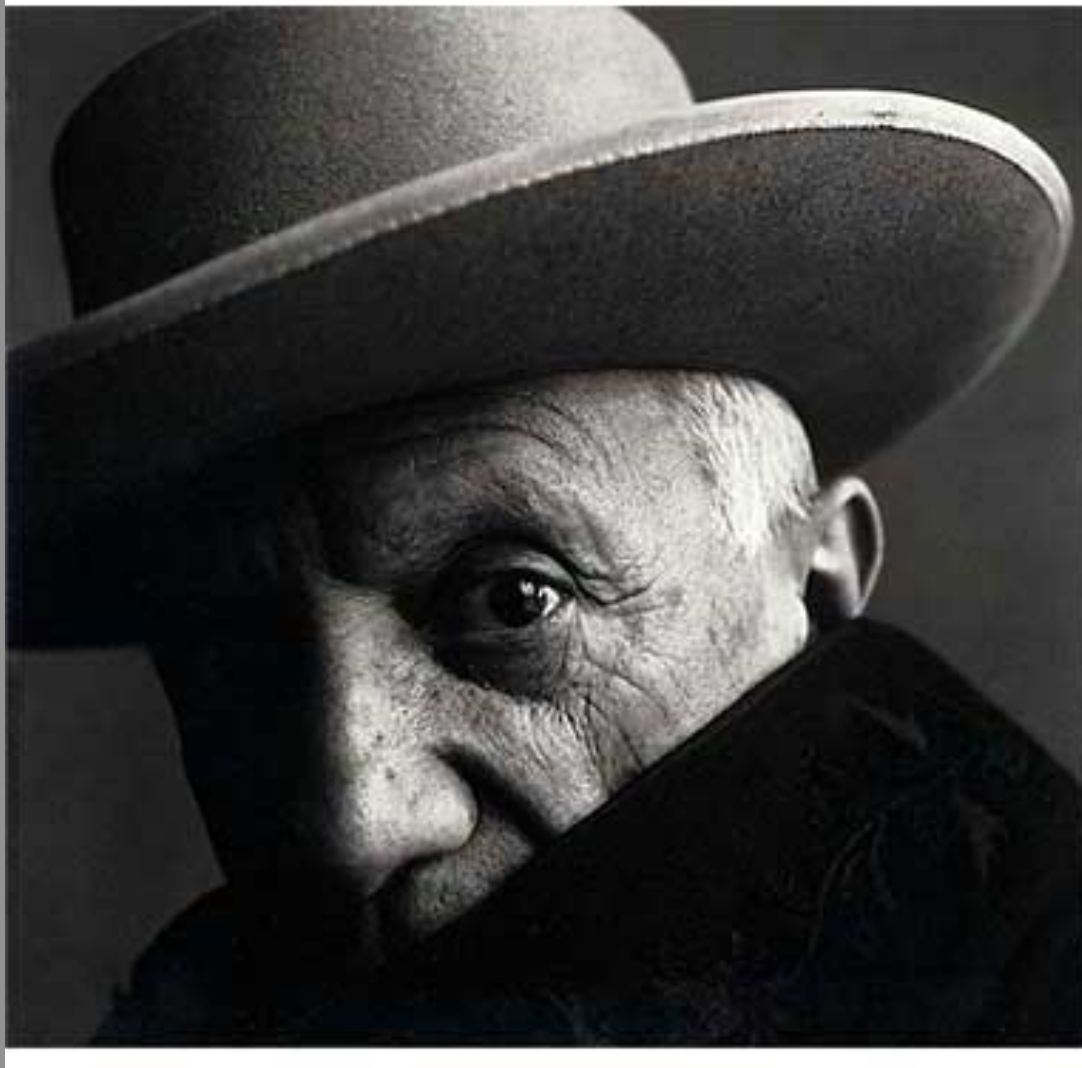
Self-Portrait and Portrait

Your portrait may show your audience how an individual interacts with the surrounding environment.

What does the background environment add to the portrait that a close-up does not?



Gregory Crewdson creates portraits of people in suburban situations. What are these images saying about the people who live in these neighborhoods? How does he use light to create a kind of 'creepy' feel? What else does he do to help us empathize with these people?



Irving Penn, Picasso



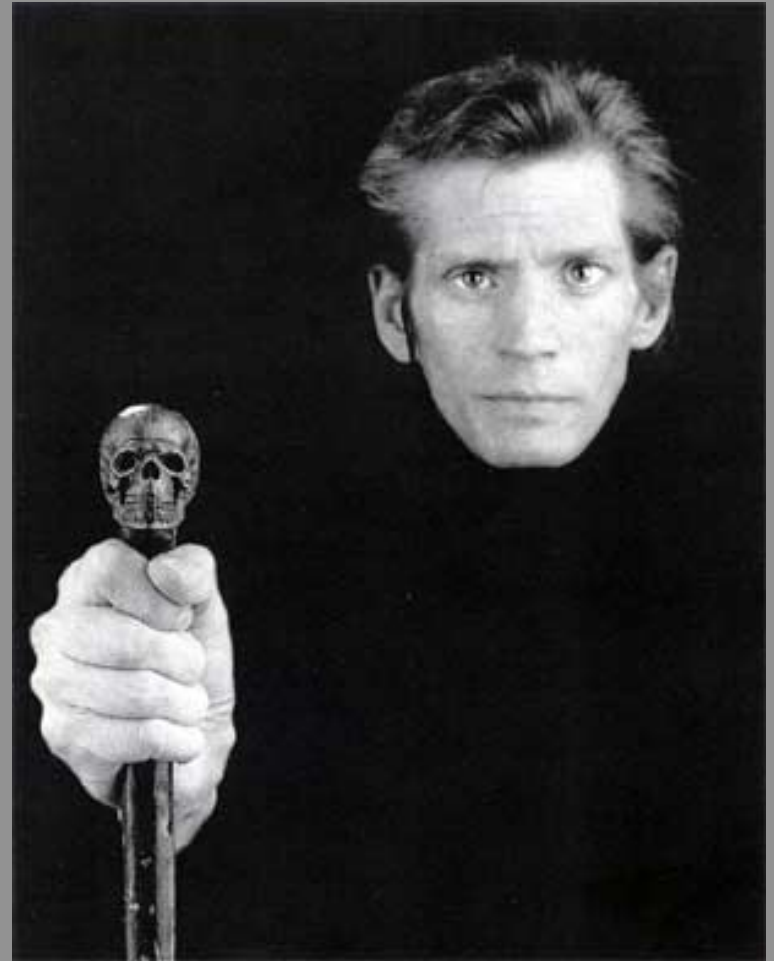
Jeff Wall. Sometimes photographers create portraits of individuals by showing how they live. What does this picture say about this man?!

Oliver Herring-- Herring wanted to create a situation where his subjects could engage with him in a vulnerable and honest way. He used this device of having them blow water with food coloring into the wind so that the color covered their faces. This unusual situation provided a vehicle so that the person let down defenses.





Rineke Dijkstra--Dijkstra photographs young people because she is interested in how people become who they are. In these photos what can we say about these two young people? What kind of people do you think they are know?



Robert Mapplethorpe--These two self-portraits show two different images of the same man. They were taken at different ages and different circumstances in his life. What do each say about him as a person? Mapplethorpe knew full well that the history of portraits include securing a kind of immortality. How do you think Mapplethorpe wanted to be remembered?



Sally Mann took many pictures of her children. What do these photos say about the individuals? Are the pictures really about the individuals or are they more about how think about children in this country? Are they intended to be about her children or about children in general?

Let's talk about how Mann uses light...



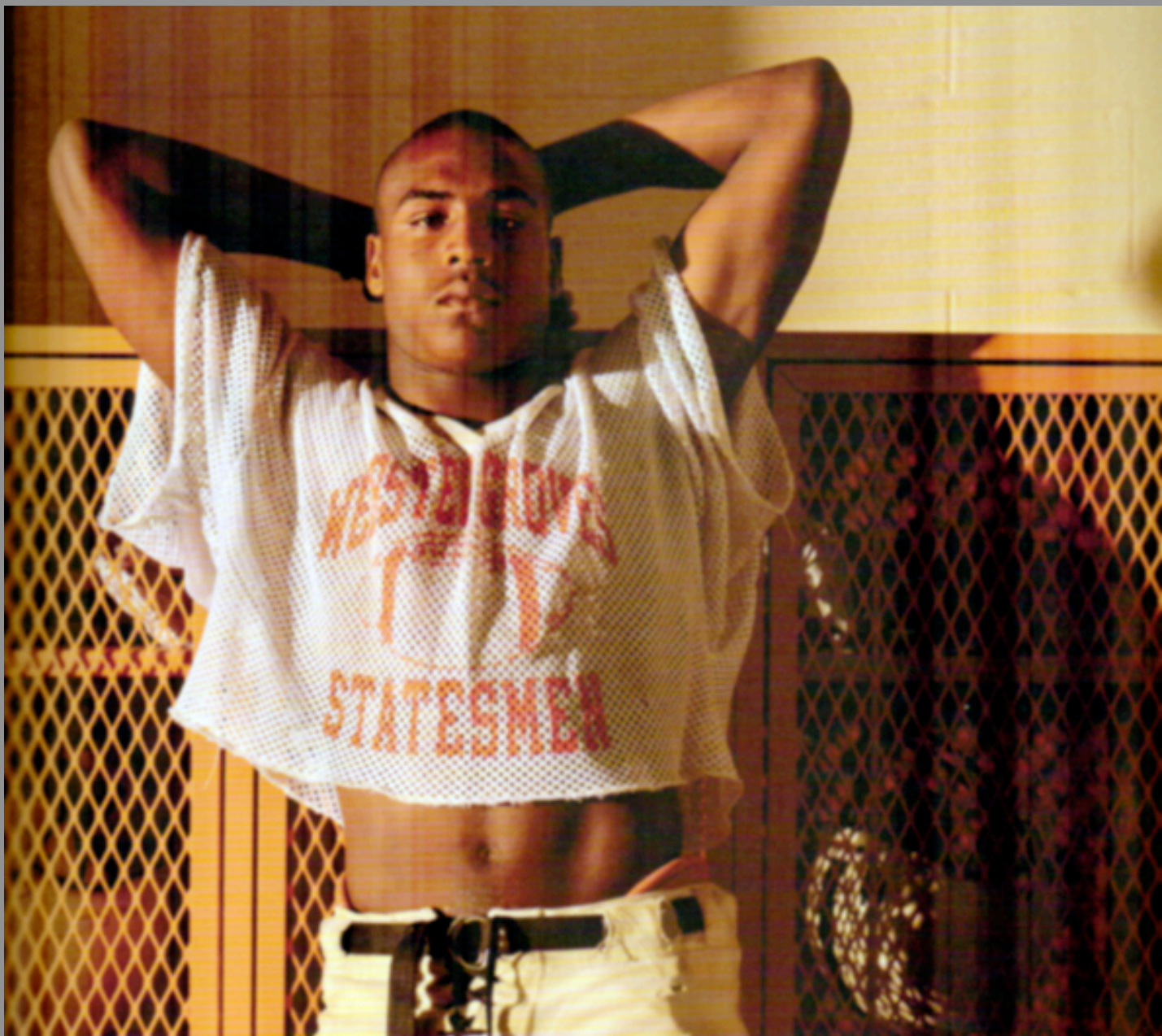
Shirin Neshat's work is about her identity as an Iranian/American woman. What does this say about her culture? What do they say about women?



Sometimes we don't need to see the entire person to know the story that is being told.



This is a casual and informal picture of a very important writer. What does the cat do to creating more understanding of the person?



The lighting in this portrait creates drama and an interesting shift between dark and light across the picture.



In this picture drama is created by casting a strong light from underneath the figure. It intensifies the color and creates drama.



The photographer had the idea to shoot this basketball player with wings because he had long arms. What else do the wings do in the picture?



What does light do in this picture? How does it affect the meaning? What other things are affecting the meaning? What overall feeling is created?



There is a strong side light in this picture. Notice some things that give us insight into what is going on. Does this picture seem posed or like a natural action that the photographer happened to witness and capture?



How might a portrait be masked in a literal way? In this instance how is light used? what is revealed about the subject?



This very tender photograph is the result of the photographer, Joe McNally, asking the subject, a Vietnamese woman who was burned with napalm during the Vietnam war, if she would reveal her scars. What does this bring to the photo?



Look at this photo. Is it an interesting photograph. It is an interesting portrait?



Sometimes in a portrait, moving in close really helps.



Close up with something revealing in the background.



Get on your subject's level. This means sometimes getting low... Or getting high. Change perspective.



In this picture the boy is interesting but what about the hand? How does having that hand in the picture alter the meaning and composition?

This is a simple portrait. In it there are some very simple things that affect the meaning.
Gesture, Light, clothes, gaze.





Ditto