

Milwaukee Art Museum JDSP 4th Grade – Tour 1: Portraiture

Pre-visit Mini Lesson

We are looking forward to seeing your 4th graders at the Milwaukee Art Museum. Here are some activities to help prepare the students for the visit.

Watch:

1. Please show them the MAM *Museum Manners* video. It is short and fun.

From YouTube:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=4&v=Jn7K4_HFTXo

From the MAM website: <https://mam.org/learn/>

2. Please have a nametag (first name in big readable letters) for each student. This allows the docent to call them by name and engage with them more personally.

Introduce:

On this **Portraiture** tour, we will be looking at a variety of portraits and learning about the people or animals in them. We will also see that artists from around the world make portraits in many styles. Today we will see different portraits to learn what each artist is telling us about the person(s) or animals in the painting. Every painting has a story and you will discover what it is in many different ways during your visit at the Museum today.



Vocabulary: A **portrait** is a painting, photograph, sculpture, or other artistic representation of a person or animal, in which the face and its expression is the focus.

Ask:

- Why do you think artists make portraits?
- Have you had any portraits taken of you or your family? Where are they now?
- What are some celebrations at which people may take portraits? Will your portraits last hundreds of years?
- When you get your picture taken, what are some things you consider? What you wear? How your hair looks? Is it supposed to be a silly picture, a serious picture?

Optional Follow-Up Activity: Ask your students to draw an example of their favorite portrait from the tour when you return to your classroom.