

Beyond Identity

Traditional portraits in art tended to portray the subject as just a matter of identity; what the person looked like. Some artists added symbols that gave hints as to what this particular person was also about, i.e. a person would be holding a book if he was a man of intellect or would be portrayed with a the refined clothing and jewelry if she were a princess.

Portraits nowadays have gone beyond mere identity, where a person's face (Steve Jobs) or stance or pose (Nike Air and Michael Jordan) is now a "brand".

Your task is to take your monochromatic portrait and add on to it the images and symbols that have become synonymous with your figure.

Once you have finished this portrait, you are to glue it onto a 12" X 16" canvas paper and paint the appropriate added symbols and images.

You will need to do some research as to why your person is a figure of current event.

- If he is a politician, why is he in the news?
- What party does he belong to?
- What has he done?
- If you intend to do the Parliament buildings in the background, what would you do so these buildings are specifically tied or connected to your politician? Would you building be Tory blue, NDP orange, or Liberal red?

We will look at the works of Frida Kahlo to help us with this task.

Materials

Sketchbooks

Pencils

Finished portraits

Paints

Brushes

Brush markers for touch-ups

Paint markers for touch-ups