CREATIVE LEARNING
NERAM

DRAW A PORTRAIT

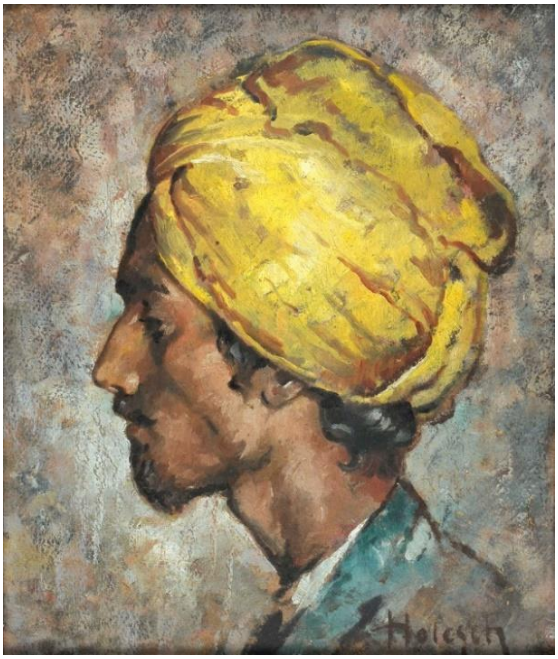
A portrait is a representation of a person. While, a self-portrait is a portrait of the artist by the artist. Portraiture is a very old form of art originating in ancient Egypt. This was before the invention of photography where the only way to record someone's appearance was through a painting/drawing or sculpture. See below the mummy portrait of a woman, imagery sourced from the J. Paul Getty Museum.

Isidora Master (Romano-Egyptian, active 100 - 125)
Mummy Portrait of a Woman A.D 100
E Encaustic on linden wood; gilt; linen

Furthermore, portraits have always been more than just a record, historically they have been used to show power, wealth, beauty, and virtue. This portrayal can be how the subject wishes to be viewed and/or how the artists views the subject

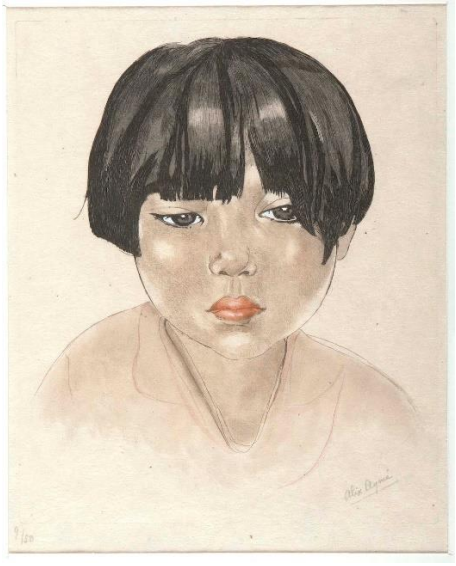
Here are some portraits currently hanging in the art museum for inspiration.

Del Kathryn Barton
The Daughter (detail) 2011-12
Acrylic, gouache, watercolour and ink on polyester canvas



Denes de Holesch (1910-1983)
The Yellow Turban n.d.
oil on canvas on board

Jean Beraud (1849-1936)
La Danseuse 1873
oil on wood



Alix Ayme (1894-1989)
Study n.d.
hand tinted etching

Draw a portrait in the frame on the next page and think of who you are drawing and how you wish for them to be seen… Think further about: Gaze, where are they looking? Stance, are they sitting or standing? What they are wearing? Are there other objects in the portrait with them? What do they feel and how do they express this feeling in their face or posture?