

MASTER GUIDED

## Painting Series

Taught by Prof. Brenda A. Andrews



Sundays 1:00pm – 5:00

STUDIO 2

Center for the Arts, Escondido

# Portraits of Modern Life

## SESSION 1



- Each week we will build on the previous class
- You will find your practice, rhythm, and expression
- Step into the Lab - Studio where experimentation and historical knowledge is key to your Success

# Portraits of Modern Life

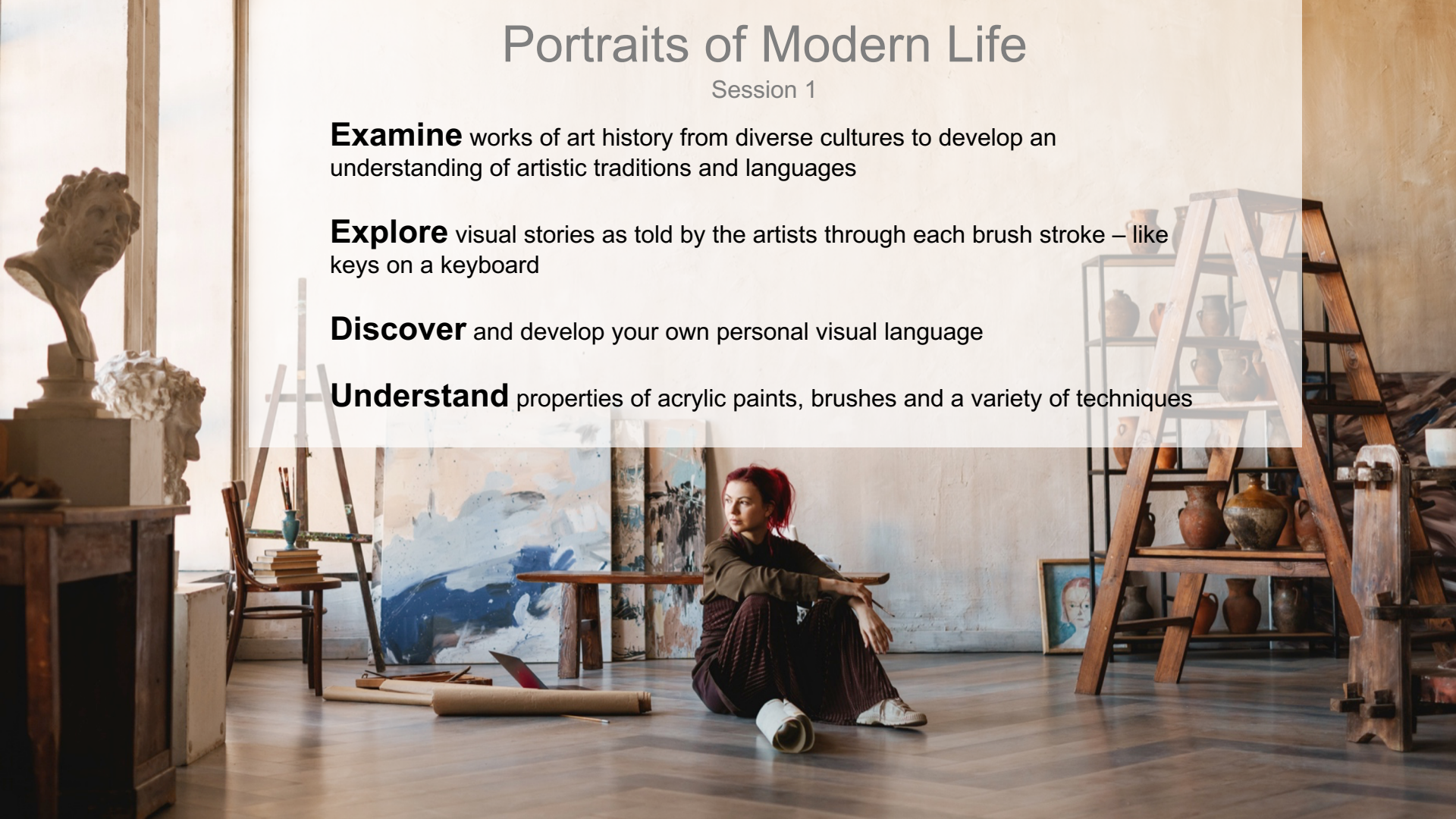
## Session 1

**Examine** works of art history from diverse cultures to develop an understanding of artistic traditions and languages

**Explore** visual stories as told by the artists through each brush stroke – like keys on a keyboard

**Discover** and develop your own personal visual language

**Understand** properties of acrylic paints, brushes and a variety of techniques



# What is Portraiture - Where did it come from?



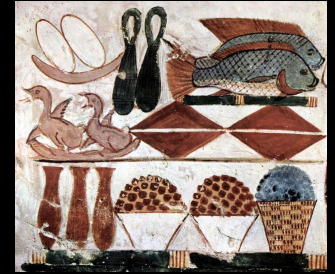
Prehistoric Lascaux, France



Prehistoric, Turkey



Banda, India



Egyptians in the 15th century BCE

Homo sapiens moved in migratory waves. Recorded & communicated through visuals. “I was here”.  
Mapping their existence – “writing on the wall” (Literally the beginning of language)

Historically, portraits recorded the likenesses of humans or animals that were alive, or had been alive.

The word portraiture is used to describe this category of art.

The purpose of a portrait is to memorialize an image of someone or something for the future.

A portrait records the subject's features and tells something about them.

Portraits can be literal, realistic representations or they can be interpretive, and symbolic.

Artist thoughts *Portraits come in any size or subject*

# Portraits – Records of Life



Braque  
Still Life with Metronome

# Modern Portraiture -Symbolic



All the major art movements of the first two decades of the 20th century, (including Fauvism, Expressionism, Cubism, and Futurism), in some way emphasized the gap between art and natural appearances.

# Symbolic Language through Cultural Exchanges Pigments, Patterns, & Rhythms

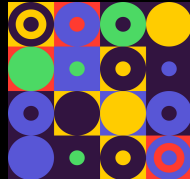
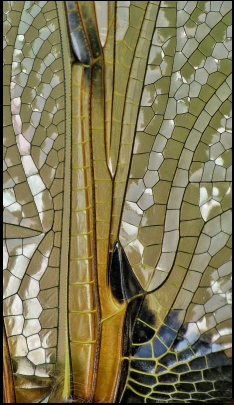
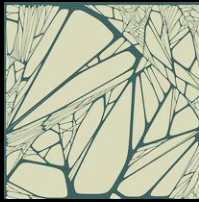
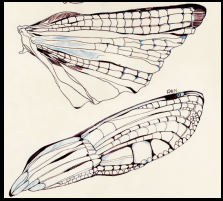
Patterns & Symbols - Patterns in nature are visible regularities of form found in the natural world. Scientific developments changes language.

Language of Symbols – cloth and textile patterns are translated visually through signs, symbols and visual patterns taken from observations and conversations.

Emotion – Cultural designs and color palettes display human emotions through line, repetition and shapes.

Color palette – Examines color theory and cultural symbols.

Composition – tight, fills frame, close up without any information except the surface treatments.

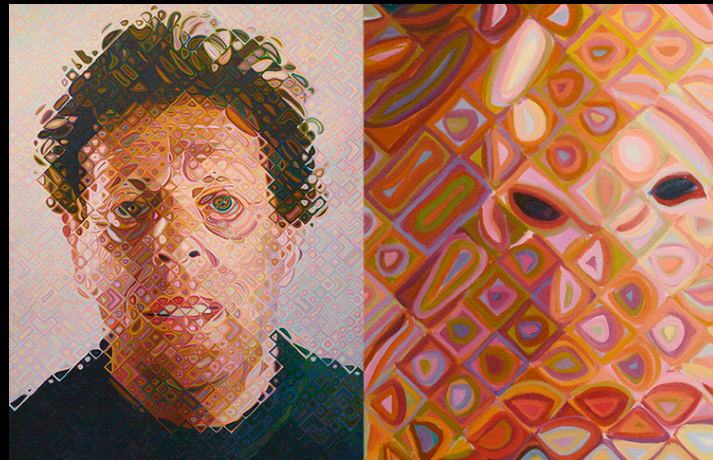
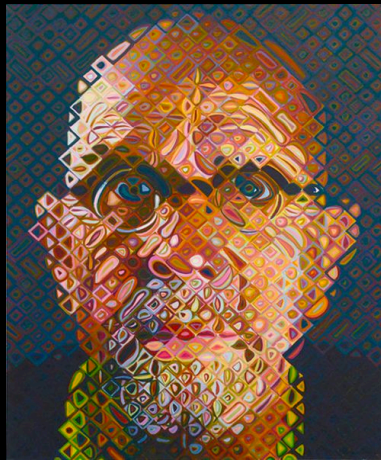


# Modern Portraiture Painting

Man and Machine – transition into digital photography informing paintings.

In 1988, Chuck Close was paralyzed following a rare spinal artery collapse; he continues to paint using a brush-holding device strapped to his wrist and forearm.

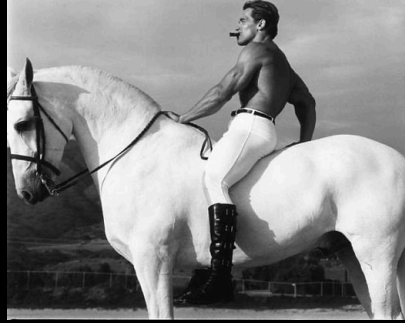
The artist has expanded contemporary portraiture through varied drawing and painting techniques as ink, graphite, pastel, watercolor, conté crayon, finger painting, and stamp-pad ink on paper; printmaking techniques, such as Mezzotint, etching, woodcuts, linocuts, and silkscreens; as well as handmade paper collage, Polaroid photographs, Daguerreotypes, and Jacquard tapestries.





# Modern Portraiture Photography

As a staff photographer for Rolling Stone Annie Leibovitz molded photography in her own image. Declared a Living Legend by the Library of Congress, becoming the first woman to have a feature exhibition at the US National Portrait Gallery, and taking the last ever photo of John Lennon just hours before he died, Leibovitz is as important as her work. Portraits of Modern Life



# Portraits of Modern Life





Woman Holding A Balance

## Reading an Image through Artist eyes and choices made

Portrait of the Figure – Model draped

Still Life symbolism – Grapefruit: self love, spirituality, and restoration. Apple: beauty, sweetness, temptation. Tomato: blood, life, and fertility.

Gesture – Head between knees: Overwhelmed, breathing, self protection

Emotion – Austere, isolated. Humorous play on a "still – life" and a "still Life" – Woman Holding A Balance

Color palette – monochromatic, lacks color. Examine flesh tones of figure and fruit are very colorful.

Composition – tight, fills frame, close up without any information except the surface treatments.



Red Bag

## Reading an Image through Artist eyes and choices made

Portrait of the Figure – Model cropped

Life symbolism – Standing still, focus on handle and thumbs. Dress coat, leather gloves, geometric handbag

Gesture – Holding handbag. Visual cues from advertisements. Choice of bag. Vintage or current fashion trend.

Emotion – Luxury, cold season – warmth, social protocol. Viewer to determine meaning – questioning viewers perception of 3 combined objects. Is she human? Is this a mannequin?

Color palette – muted complementary colors – red and green. Viewer responsible to assign significance according to culture.

Composition – tight, fills frame, close up without any information except the surface treatments.

## Reading an Image through Artist eyes and choices made

Portrait of the Figure – Biographical objects stand in for the figure.

Still Life symbolism – Yellow high-tops: youth, basketball vintage, child size, not new. Soda can without logo – Coke has new flavor, Coke Skittles. Formal cloth background. Still life set up.

Gesture – Fun, happy, personal objects

Emotion – Fun, reflection. Humorous play on a “still – life” and a “still Life”

Color palette – Complementary color harmony. Yellow and blue vibrate off each other and great a sense of energy.

Composition – Traditional still life set up. Focus is on paint, gesture, hand of the artist.



New Coke and Tenni's

## Reading an Image through Artist eyes and choices made

Portrait of Modern Life – Who's life?

Still Life symbolism – Tequila and Lime. Glass half empty or half full?

Gesture – paint strokes are direct and sculptural

Emotion – Viewer determines emotional response. Artist subject presented as document, replication of object alone. Humorous play on a "still – life" and a "still Life"

Color palette – monochromatic, lacks color. Focuses on Lime color. Note gray has warm red and pink accents; subtle color theory.

Composition – tight, fills frame, close up without any information except the surface treatments.



Rough Day

## Reading an Image through Artist eyes and choices made

Modern Still life – Traditional color palette. Composition is a modern take. 4:3 ration.

Still Life symbolism – Oranges represent ambition, prosperity and wealth of the family. Points to origins and passages. Sweet oranges are a hybrids across many cultures and one of the first domesticated fruits worldwide.

Gesture – Cascading orange peels away from soft juicy flesh

Emotion – “peeled like an orange” an opportunity or plan is well thought out. Deep introspection.

Color palette – black monochromatic creates dynamic effect on the fruits. Shadows contain color compliments.

Composition – tight, fills frame, close up without any information except the surface treatments.



Peel me like an Orange

## Reading an Image through Artist eyes and choices made

Portrait Fragment – OK universal sign. Current politics have abducted the symbol for white supremacy. Gesture with cartoons, video games, and icons from the past (smiley face) attempts to reclaim the symbol with a brighter future. Modern signature E br T (social critic)

Still Life symbolism – Hope; remember an innocent time of carefree happiness – in the face of school shootings. Appears banal until the viewer closely examines the elements and content of the work.

Emotion – Orange background is sfumato'd. Cheerful and optimistic speaking to youth.

Color palette – Cartoon like, commercial commentary on mass-media fragments

Composition – Single icon. Real hand with cultural specific references.



OK Emoji





## Reading an Image through Artist eyes and choices made

Still Life – "Rubix Split"

Still Life symbolism – youthful, playful and irreverent.

Gesture – all about the Rubik's Cube toy and bananas as food. From a child's point of view it's about understanding the inside of a banana – complete creativity to put two disparate things together.

Emotion – Joy of creativity

Color palette – splashy and shiny like plastic.

Composition – tight, fills frame, child like breaking the rules with creative abandon.



Now  
Let's  
Make  
Art