



Educational Guide



Sitting Still

The virtual exhibition, *Sitting Still*, explores the evolution of girl portraiture from the Renaissance to the mid-twentieth century. It introduces the history and function of girl portraiture and examines the various ways in which artists, sitters, and audiences have represented girlhood.

Use this education guide to interact with the exhibit and gain a deeper understanding of how the girls have been portrayed in artwork throughout history.

Activities in this guide are aligned to U.S. educational standards in the areas of visual arts and writing. They are designed to be used by students and teachers as school lessons or enrichment opportunities.

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Discussion Questions

Students can answer the following questions on their own or discuss in groups.

1. How might the experience of viewing these portraits of girls be different if they were mixed in with other works of art (not just those featuring girls) in a museum?
2. What are similarities and differences between the different time periods and/or cultural origins of the portraits?
3. Compare your interpretation of one of the portraits with a friend or classmate's interpretation of the same piece.
4. Choose one or more portraits and discuss the mood portrayed in the painting.
5. How do these portraits reflect cultural traditions?

Activity: *The Big Picture*

Educational Standards

National Core Arts Standards, HS Accomplished VA:Pr6.1.IIa:
Make, explain, and justify connections between artists or artwork and social, cultural, and political history.

The portraits featured in *Sitting Still* give us a small glimpse into the lives of the girls portrayed in them. These girls were part of a bigger picture of history beyond what we see in the paintings.

In this activity you will focus on one portrait and connect it to social, cultural, and/or political history of its era. Choose a portrait from the exhibition, and then complete the chart below. Use reliable online sources or other resources to complete your research.

Portrait Title	
Year Created	
Country / Region	
Social History Context (Religion, economics, gender, race, etc.)	
Political History Context (Government, wars/conflicts, political movements, etc.)	
How might the girl in the portrait have been impacted by the events of the era in which she lived?	

Activity: What's Her Story?

Imagine you could hop into one of the portraits in the exhibition. You could spend some time talking with the girl in the portrait and learning more about her life, while exploring the room in which she is pictured. Use your imagination, and the information about the portrait, to write a short story about your talk with the girl in the portrait.

Educational

Standards

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.

7.3

Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, relevant descriptive details, and well-structured event sequences.

Activity: Portraits Through Time

Educational Standards

National Core Art Standards
6th Grade VA:

Cn11.1.6a:

Analyze how art reflects changing times, traditions, resources, and cultural uses.

The exhibition *Sitting Still* features portraits from 5 eras: Renaissance, Baroque, Age of Empires, The 19th Century, and the 20th Century. Explore the portraits and compare their characteristics in the chart below to analyze how art can reflect the changing times.

	Renaissance	Baroque	Age of Empires	19th Century	20th Century
Colors					
Artistic techniques					
Poses					
Background / Scenery					

Girl Museum

We are the first and only online museum dedicated to girls.

We exhibit, educate, and raise awareness about the unique experience of being born and growing up female around the world in the past and present. As a community of passionate and creative individuals, we acknowledge and advocate for girls as forces for collective responsibility and change in the global context, not as victims and consumers.

We are a registered 501(c)3 non-profit educational organization.

Learn more and get involved at www.GirlMuseum.org



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Activity: Create Your Own

Educational

Standards

National Core Art Standards Anchor Standard 3:
Refine and complete artistic work.

Portraits have remained a popular theme in artwork throughout human history. After exploring the *Sitting Still* exhibition, create a portrait of your own. It may be a self-portrait or a portrait of another person. Think about the techniques and tools you will use as you plan your artwork. Perhaps draw some inspiration from the images in the exhibition!

We would love to see your completed portrait! Please email an image of your completed artwork to share@girlmuseum.org.