Identity: Defining Self & Society through Portraits

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Art Terms

- abstraction vs. naturalism
- allegory
- Ashcan School and The Eight
- gaze
- German Expressionism
- Gothic
- impasto
- iconography
- Impressionism
- perspective, modeling
- pendant
- post-impressionism
- realism
- regionalism
- social realism
- Stieglitz Circle/291 Gallery

Contextual References and Influences

- Immigration Act of 1891, Quota Acts of 1921 and 1924
- Psychoanalysis, William James, *The Principles of Psychology* (1909)
- Mexican Revolution (begins 1910)
- WWI, 1914–18 (U.S. participation, 1917–18)
- Great Migration
- Harlem Renaissance
- Depression

CLOSE READ

CHRONOLOGICAL OVERVIEW

James McNeil Whistler (1834–1903), *The Artist in his Studio*, 1865/66; oil on paper mounted on panel, (24 3/4 x 18 1/4 in), The Art Institute of Chicago, 1912.141


Robert Henri (1865–1921) *Himself*, 1913; oil on canvas; (32 1/4 x 26 1/8 in.), The Art Institute of Chicago, 1924.907

Robert Henri (1865–1921) *Herself*, 1913; oil on canvas, (32 x 26 in), The Art Institute of Chicago, 1924.912
Marsden Hartley (1877–1943)  
**Painting No. 50**, 1914–1915; oil on canvas, (47 x 47 in.), Terra Foundation for American Art, 1999.61

Marsden Hartley (1877–1943)  
**Portrait of a German Officer**, 1914; oil on canvas, (68 1/4 x 41 3/8 in.), Metropolitan Museum of Art, NY, 49.70.42

Grant Wood (1892–1942)  
**American Gothic**, 1930; oil on beaverboard, (30 11/16 x 25 11/16 in.), The Art Institute of Chicago, 1930.934  
(AIC American Art Teachers Manual)

José Clemente Orozco (1883–1949), **Zapata**, 1930; oil on canvas, (78 ¼ x 48 ¼ in.), The Art Institute of Chicago, 1941.35  
(AIC American Art Teachers Manual)
LESSON PLAN

Beauford Delaney, (1901–1979)  
_**Self Portrait**, 1944;  
oil on canvas, (27 x 22 in.), The Art Institute of Chicago, 1991.27

Charles White (1918–1979)  
_This is My Brother_, 1942;  
oil on canvas, (24 x 36 in.),  
The Art Institute of Chicago, 1999.224

**Teacher Reference Materials:**  

• Biography of Beauford Delaney, Smithsonian American Art Museum:  
  [http://americanart.si.edu/collections/search/artist/?id=1186](http://americanart.si.edu/collections/search/artist/?id=1186)

• James Baldwin, "On the Painter Beauford Delaney" in _Transition_, No. 75/76,  
Published by: Indiana University Press on behalf of the W.E.B. Du Bois Institute,  