

CARL VON MARR: EMOTION PORTRAITS



Carl von Marr, *John Marr; the Artist's Father*, 1891 (detail)

ACTIVITY OVERVIEW

Students will analyze Carl von Marr's *John Marr, the Artist's Father* to interpret how emotion is communicated through facial expression and body language. Using these observations, students will plan and create a portrait that intentionally conveys the mood or emotion of their chosen subject.

OBJECTIVES

Students will:

- Analyze a portrait to identify how facial expression and body language communicate emotion
- Create a portrait that emphasizes emotion through facial expression and body language
- Reflect on their artistic process and make connections between the artwork, emotions, and personal experiences

MATERIALS LIST

- Image of *John Marr, the Artist's Father* (digital or printed)
- Paper
- Pencil
- Drawing or painting materials
- Collage materials such as magazines, newspapers, drawings, and found objects



Learn more about
Carl von Marr

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SUGGESTED DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Focus on the figure's face and body language. What emotion(s) do you think his expression communicates?
- How is emotion conveyed through the figure's facial expression?
- What can we learn about this person through this portrait?

ACTIVITY STEPS

1. Introduce students to *John Marr, the Artist's Father*. Facilitate a class discussion on Marr's use of expression and body language to communicate emotions. Make relevant connections to the students by discussing situations where they may read expressions or body language to understand how others are feeling.
2. Explain that students will be creating a portrait. Ask students to consider who they want to portray and what emotion they want to convey. Encourage early idea development through sketching to practice drawing skills and explore possibilities.
3. Students will complete their portraits emphasizing their subject's emotion through expression and body language. Encourage students to share their work with others to reflect upon their process and make connections to the lesson.

REFLECT AND CONNECT

- What emotion are you depicting in your portrait? Describe the artistic choices you made to express this emotion.
- How can understanding facial expressions and body language help us better understand how other people are feeling? Why is this important?



Carl von Marr, *John Marr; the Artist's Father*, 1891