

# Self-portraits from the C17th to C21st

## Activity

### Questions



The following types of questions can be asked while viewing the images to stimulate discussion about the images. As you consider each work, it is important to remember that you are looking at a digital reproduction of an original artwork. The scale will generally be different and neither texture nor colour will be totally accurate:

- Why do you think that artists make self-portraits?
- Do you think a self-portrait is easy to sell?
- Who would buy an artist's self-portrait, and why?
- What do you think a self-portrait can show? (- What the artist looks like? - How they feel? - What type of artwork they produce?)
- What does the portrait reveal about the time in which the artist lived?



Some people think that the self-portrait is the most interesting kind of portrait. Why do you think this is the case and, do you disagree or agree? As you consider each work, think of these questions:

- What is it made of? How old is the work?
- How long do you think it took the artist to make?
- What scale is it?
- How much of the artist can we see?
- What (if anything) is in the work in addition to the portrait?
- Have any particular props or symbols been used in order to assist the viewer to understand the work?
- What type of clothing is he or she wearing?
- How is the figure lit?
- What type of colours has the artist used?
- Is the artist posing in any particular way? Is he or she trying to tell us anything through the pose or gesture?
- Do you think that an artist would make more than one self-portrait?
- Do you think that the self-portrait is like an advertisement for the type of work that an artist can make?