

Conversations through Art: Who am I?

Willem van Heythuysen

Closer Looking: Look at this image for 30 seconds. What do you see?

Perceive: What might you, as this person, perceive? Think about how this person might be using their senses.

- Feel?
- Hear?
- See?
- Taste?
- Smell?



Willem van Heythuysen, Kehinde Wiley, 2006.
Oil and enamel on canvas,
Arthur and Margaret Glasgow Fund

What might you, as this person, know about or believe?

What might you, as this person, care about?

Directions: Read the following context pertaining to your work of art. Below, fill out information about the 5 W's.

Context:

"A big part of what I'm questioning in my work is what does it mean to be authentic, to be real, to be a genuine article or an absolute fake? What does it mean to be a real black man? Realness is a term applied so heavily to black men in our society." -Kehinde Wiley

Wiley's lavish, larger-than-life images of African-American men play on Old Master paintings. His realistic portraits offer the spectacle and beauty of traditional European art while simultaneously critiquing their exclusion of people of color. Wiley's *Willem van Heythuysen* quotes a 1625 painting of a Dutch merchant by Frans Hals, whose bravura portraits helped define Holland's Golden Age. Wiley's model, from Harlem, New York, here takes the name of the original sitter from Harlem, the Netherlands, whose pose and attitude he mimics. Despite the wide gold frame and the vibrantly patterned background whose Indian-inspired tendrils encircle his legs, this subject's stylish Sean John street wear and Timberland boots keep him firmly in the present and in urban America.

What?

Who?

When?

Where?

Why?

Conversations through Art: Who am I?

Lady Broughton

Closer Looking: Look at this image for 30 seconds. What do you see?

Perceive: What might you, as this person, perceive? Think about how the person might be using their senses.

- Feel?
- Hear?
- See?
- Taste?
- Smell?



Maria, Lady Broughton. Joshua Reynolds, 1765-1769.
Oil on canvas.
Gift of Col. Henry W. Anderson

What might you, as this person, know about or believe?

What might you, as this person, care about?

Directions: Read the following context pertaining to your work of art. Below, fill out information about the 5 W's.

Context:

This portrait was painted using oil by British artist Joshua Reynolds in 1765 to 1769. The sitter in this portrait is Susanna Maria Hill, daughter of Thomas Hill of Tern, sister of Lord Berwick, and wife of Sir Brian Broughton, fifth baronet (d. 1766). She holds a sketchbook that bears traces of a tree and a cherub, evidence of her accomplishments as an amateur artist. His "Grand Style" made Reynolds a famous portraitist of the 18th century who later became knighted and 1st President of the Royal Academy of Arts. During this period, artists referenced the classic cultures of the Greeks and Romans as seen in the draping of her dress and the pose she is striking. In portrait paintings, the subject often had control of what was to be included in the image. Often, symbols of wealth and social standing were purposely included.

What?

Who?

When?

Where?

Why?