

Studio Saturdays: Layered Self Portraits

Rollins
Museum
of Art

Untitled (Playground) by Cobi Moules



Cobi Moules

Untitled (Playground)

2009

Oil on canvas

LIST OF MATERIALS

- A Mirror
- Crayons (different colors)
- Sheet of white paper

Cobi Moules is a contemporary artist who explores his place in the world as a queer and transgender man through his artwork. The word “contemporary” describes people or things that live, or are made in, the present day. Contemporary artists make work that is related to their own lives or that address current social, political, or cultural themes. In Moules’s case, he paints highly detailed landscapes that he fills with multiple images of himself interacting with each other and the world around them to create spaces of acceptance for himself and the wider LGBTQ+ community. By showing himself connecting with nature in these scenes, Moules hopes the viewer will better understand that being queer and transgender is as natural and beautiful as the landscapes he paints.

Moules takes a different approach to these scenes in *Untitled (Playground)*. Made early in his career, Moules depicts 16 versions of himself as a young teenager playing on playground equipment and in the area around it to show different parts of his personality and emotional expression. Like his other works, Moules uses these versions of himself to not only promote self-acceptance and self-love, but also to promote acceptance and celebration of the LGBTQ+ community.

For today’s craft, we’ll be taking a closer look at ourselves and our own expressions by creating a layered self-portrait made-up of all our different facial expressions. Each portrait will be made with a different color to represent our different emotions, but it’s up to you to decide what colors you will use to show your different emotions. For example, I’ll be using yellow to represent happiness. If you need help matching colors to emotions, feel free to do some research or talk to a family member, guardian, or friend to see what they think.

My portraits will also be made using one continuous line and will be connected to each other to show how all of my different emotions are a part of me. You’re welcome to draw your portraits however you’d like but be sure to draw big so that your portraits will overlap. For an extra challenge, you can try blind contour drawing your portraits, meaning that you do not look down at your drawing or lift your pencil up from your paper until you think you’ve finished drawing. Blind contour drawing requires close looking and careful movements, so take as much time as you need!

THINK LIKE AN ARTIST

- 1) What colors represent different emotions?
- 2) If you’ll be using blind contour drawing, what do you think will be the hardest part of making your drawing? Once you’re done, see if the end result looks the way you expected!

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Place your mirror where you can easily see yourself
2. Decide if you'd like to make a horizontal portrait or a vertical portrait, like me. Either is fine
3. Choose your first color and think about which emotion you'd like to represent.
4. I am using blue, which is a color that sometimes makes people think about unhappiness, so I think this first portrait will be a sad face.
5. Look at yourself in the mirror and make the face that matches your emotion. Try to hold the expression the whole time you draw your portrait.
6. Start drawing using a continuous line, that means you try not to lift your crayon off the paper until you're done!
7. Repeat this process with different colors and emotions until you've filled your page, or decided you've finished.
8. Examples: Red for angry. Yellow for happy. Green for disgusted. Purple for surprised. Orange for relaxed. Black for worried.
9. Remember that there are no mistakes in art, only outcomes you didn't expect! Don't worry if your portrait does not look exactly like you and just have fun with the drawing process!