



Curatorial Statement

Portrait of an Artist

The art of self-portraiture has always been an intriguing medium for analysis and self-expression. Since the early fifteenth century artists have taken on the dual roles of subject and creator in order to explore themes of identity, social status, individuality and mortality, posing the question “Who am I?” and “What part do I play in the greater scheme of things?”

From simple preliminary studies, where artists have used themselves as models through which to explore the human form, to their most self-consciously public work, which often cements their place in the history of art, this intimate art form allows the viewer the unique opportunity to see the artist represented in their own terms.

In contemplating this series of self-portraits we, the viewer, are also placed in a privileged and challenging position. Standing, often in the precise spot where the artist stood in moments of contemplation, we rise to the challenge of this confrontation, exploring the motivations behind the self-portrait, studying its effects, and discussing the very different understandings of the self which these artists project. Ultimately, we face the same questions of identity and reasoning that inspired the artist’s to create. What do you see you your reflection?

Natalie Coleman
Curator