

## Personal Archive Prompt: Self-Portrait

This prompt asks you to identify a self-portrait to include in your Personal Archive. This can be a self-portrait (or selfie, even) taken recently, or one that you take especially for this prompt.

You're even welcome to draw or paint a self-portrait. Mark for yourself (and your viewers) who you are and what you look like in this moment.

### Why a Self Portrait?

Self-portraits and portraits have a long, visual history of communicating complex and multiple meanings about the subject (you!). With this in mind, think carefully about what is communicated in the image you take/choose:

- What medium is this in - photo, painting, drawing? How does that impact how people receive and view the image?
- Are you looking at the camera/viewer? Away? How could this be interpreted by the viewer?
- What items (special clothing, accessories, furniture, etc.) are present in the frame? Are there meaning/s associated with the objects?
- Are there other people in the image? What is the relationship that links the people in the image?
- Where was this image taken, and by whom? What meanings do these choices lend to the image?

The answers to these questions should help you compose the description of the item.

After you create/identify your image, follow the directions under the heading [How to Complete Personal Archive Prompts] in the document [Introduction for Students: The Personal Archive Assignment].

### Example from the Archives

***Instructor's Choice:** insert an example from an institutionally affiliated archive or archive of your choice. Alternately, use the example below.*

The [Milwaukee Polonia Collection](#) contains a number of portraits, many of them individual & family portraits.

- You can browse all the portraits in the collection [here](#)
- Here are a few items that stood out to me:
  - [Portrait of a Boy](#)
  - [Portrait - Woman](#)
  - [Group Portrait - Family](#)
  - [Portrait - Woman \(2\)](#)
  - [Portrait - Man](#)
  - [Portrait - Man \(2\)](#)

