

LEARNING RESOURCE

Making Faces – Clay Portraits

Self-portraits are a way of revealing something about oneself. Eric Kandel



This tactile, hands-on activity enables people of all ages to explore the many facets of clay sculpture to create a self-portrait. You should allow a minimum of 2 hours for this session, including experimentation and warm up activities. Air drying clay and clay tools are inexpensive, and many items you will already have at school can be used to model clay. Using air drying clay also means that the clay needs no firing, is easy to clean up, and can be painted on or glazed once dry.

- Air drying clay
- Clay boards or grease proof paper
- Clay tools
- Water pots

As this project reflects on the person making it, there are many extensions that can be applied to this project. Questions around identity, and *'what makes me who I am'* are good for reflection time, and more can be added to the models, such as modelled elements of their interests and passions. This activity will enable students to:

- Visualise a portrait from a reflected image to a 3D image
- Develop their observational skills
- Develop dexterity and fine motor skills
- All of the skills learnt are transferable to other clay modelling