

## Here's Looking at You Kid

Portraits in the visual arts/discussions on how we see ourselves

<b>Course #</b>	21FHER
<b>Format:</b>	Seminar
<b>Moderators:</b>	Ellen Kosmer Betsy Siersma
<b>Date and Time:</b>	Wednesday, 9:30-11:30 AM 10 weeks, starting 9/29/2021
<b>Format:</b>	Online
<b>Maximum number of participants:</b>	15
<b>Auditors accepted:</b>	Yes, 1

**Purpose:** In this seminar we will look at a variety of portraits and self-portraits by well-known late 20th century artists. We will examine and discuss how visual artists have met the challenge of how to represent ourselves and others.

**Description:** This past year we have been immersed in watching faces. Our social lives have been dominated by images of heads fitted neatly into Zoom boxes. We create our own self-portraits, curating an image of how we want to present ourselves, perhaps adjusting lighting or background. In our Zoom meetings we are presented with a gallery of heads that we focus on for hours at a time. We are free to look at each other in a way that we don't do in person -- more intently, like looking at portraits in a gallery. The fascination with how we represent ourselves and how we want to be seen is an age-old one. Visual artists such as Andy Warhol, Annie Leibowitz and Lucien Freud have been creating images of individuals that attempt to show not just the physical appearance of a person but also to reveal something of their character or personality.

**Role of participants:** Seminar members will select a portrait from the list we provide, give a brief background on the artist and lead a discussion with everyone, looking closely at the person represented, and talk about why the artist may have chosen to represent them in this way. For a final project, each participant will create a self-portrait in any media.

**Resources:** Information about specific artists and portraits can be found online.

**About the Moderators:** Ellen Kosmer is an art historian and an artist. Betsy Siersma is a museum curator.