

Program Name: Paige Ahlenius

Artist: Portraits for Social Justice

Special Requirements:

Worktables or large open space for students to work. Artist needs 15 – 20 minutes to set up supplies for the workshop. If two or more workshops are scheduled, students need to come to the room where the artist is. Teachers must be present at all times during workshops.

Special Points of Interest

Workshop Description

In this five-session residency, students will learn about a historical figure who fought for social justice. They will create their own portraits through painting and illustration. They will also write a pledge of how they can follow in the footsteps of the historical figure.

By creating their very own portrait of a famous leader for social justice, students will have an opportunity to stand for social justice in their own lives. Students will learn about a leader and learn about that person's history and accomplishments as well as the personality traits that helped the person make a positive mark on history and reflect on the similar traits the student has in themselves. They will use symbols to create an impactful portrait with sharpies on foamboard. Students will exercise their own creativity and self-reflection to create this impactful portrait.

Educational Objectives & Standards

Students will:

- Discuss and define developmentally appropriate core ethical and performance principles and their importance such as respect, responsibility, fairness, kindness, honesty, punctuality, and others/
- Interpret ethical reasoning through discussions of individual and community rights and responsibilities.
- Demonstrate and practice characteristics of a caring relationship by treating others with empathy.
- Describe personal qualities (for example, personal strengths, weaknesses, interests, and abilities).
- Acknowledge personal responsibilities to self and others. Examine the personal impact of helping others.
- Reflect on personal roles at home, school and the community, and identify responsibilities.
- Develop strategies to balance family, school, and community roles.





Artist Bio:

Paige Ahlenius holds a Masters of Fine Arts in Scene Design from the University of Virginia and has been investing in the Kansas City arts community since 1999.

A KCYA Teaching Artist since 2008, Paige has developed various process-based art, social arts integration programs

for students ages 3 through 18. Some of them include Construction Physics, The Magic of Science, Galimotos and Portraits for Social Justice. Paige also facilitates STEM + Arts Integration workshops for students and professional development sessions for teachers.

Description of each class

Class 1: Students will go over all the information they have collected on their historical figure. We will talk about what personality traits the person had to help them be successful. Students will learn how to do a rough sketch and decide how to get the portrait look how they want it. We will talk about quotes they might want to put in their portrait and how to implement words in other ways.

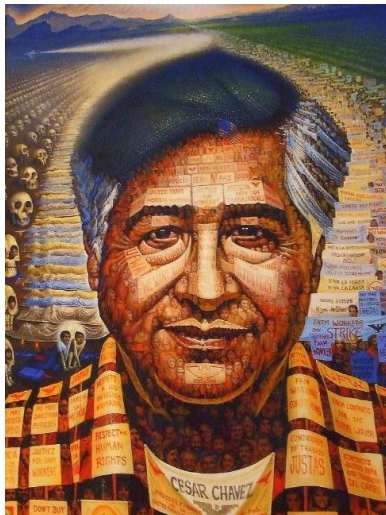
Class 2: We will start out talking about colors and get that finalized. Students will get their canvas board and start plotting out their portrait. They will learn what size the object must be to be most impactful. The rest of the class they will finish the outline of their portrait. This will be done in pencil.

Class 3: Students will get a lesson in painting. They will learn how the paint works, how to use brushes in different ways and how to apply a wash to the background of the painting. They will begin to paint their portrait.

Class 4: Students will use sharpies to complete their portrait. They will also use mod podge to attach any pictures and quotes they might want to use. The portraits will come to life!

HOMEWORK after Class 4: Students will reflect and write about how the personality traits are reflected in themselves. They will also write a pledge stating how from this day forward they will use their positive and powerful personality traits to fight injustice.

Class 5: (presentation) Students will present their portraits individually. They will then read aloud the similarities and recite their pledge. The school staff and principal as well as parents should be encouraged to attend. If this is not a possibility, it can be recorded and shared with the adults when it's appropriate.



Cesar Chavez painting
by Octavio Ocampo

Contact KCYA for more
information about this and
other programs

816.531.4022
KCYA.org