

# Self Portraits: Not a Selfie

Today, "selfie's" are all the rage... but self portraits have been around for much longer.

When we look at creating a self portrait, we must look inward to try and describe who we are in a single shot.

Painting or drawing a self portrait, can be different, because anything obscure and theoretical we can create from our mind on a canvas.

Photographing a self portrait can be a bit more of a challenge, as you must physically create what you want the audience to see from your mind before you can capture it in your image.

This particular project will be paired with your I am From poems that you will create with inspiration from the work of [George Ella Lyons](http://www.georgeellalyon.com/where.html).

<http://www.georgeellalyon.com/where.html>

## Where I'm From

I am from clothespins,  
from Clorox and carbon-tetrachloride.  
I am from the dirt under the back porch.  
(Black, glistening,  
it tasted like beets.)  
I am from the forsythia bush  
the Dutch elm  
whose long-gone limbs I remember  
as if they were my own.

I'm from fudge and eyeglasses,  
from Imogene and Alafair.  
I'm from the know-it-alls  
and the pass-it-ons,  
from Perk up! and Pipe down!  
I'm from He restoreth my soul  
with a cottonball lamb  
and ten verses I can say myself.

I'm from Artemus and Billie's Branch,  
fried corn and strong coffee.  
From the finger my grandfather lost  
to the auger,  
the eye my father shut to keep his sight.

Under my bed was a dress box  
spilling old pictures,  
a sift of lost faces  
to drift beneath my dreams.  
I am from those moments--

snapped before I budded --  
leaf-fall from the family tree.

Consider the words of your poem, the way things look, smell, sound- what color are they  
How do the different people, places and things that you see make you the person that you are?  
After putting the poem into the formal format, envision what your self portrait will look like.

Utilizing a tripod or similar tool, and the self timer or the remote clicker, take several images that you feel represent who you are.

Consider reading this post: [Beyond the Selfie: How Photographers take Self-Portraits](#)

<http://www.pophoto.com/how-to/2014/03/beyond-selfie-how-photographers-take-self-portraits>

Use these examples from Google Images to find inspiration for your own Self Portraits!!!





























