



# WI. VETERANS MUSEUM

## Portraiture

Grade Level: 9-12



## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

### Students Will:

- Learn about Zingale and his art from WWII
- Talk about different looks and poses and what they might mean
- Talk about Perception vs. Reality
- Draw portraits

## BACKGROUND

**Santos Zingale**, painter and art educator, grew up on the East Side of Milwaukee, where even as a child he would draw and sketch the neighborhood children. From 1927-1931, Zingale attended and received his Bachelor's Degree from the Milwaukee State Teachers College, now the University of Wisconsin—Milwaukee.

From 1944-1946, Zingale was in the U.S. Navy, where he produced sketches of life aboard the U.S.S. Bremerton.

## DIRECTIONS

### Look at Zingale portraits from his time on the U.S.S. *Bremerton*

- What do you notice about the different poses?
- Are all the men looking directly at the artist? Why or why not?

**In the military, there is a saying that Perception is Reality. This means that what you see happening and what your brain thinks is happening is the truth of the situation.**

- When you look at these images, what do you perceive from the portrayed figures?
- Can you guess an individual's personality from their portrait? How do they feel? Could you be wrong?
- Could these men be changing how they are perceived for the artist?

**Pictures like this were often made to be sent home to family, friends, or sweethearts.**

- Who do you think is the intended audience for each of these pictures? Does that change how you perceive the men?

**Divide up in pairs and take turns being the artist and the subject. Draw a portrait letting the figure determine how he/she will be seated and where he/she will be looking.**

- How did it feel to be the artist?
- How did it feel to be the subject?

If there is time, have pairs get together and talk about the portraits they created and what they perceive from the drawings.

## SUPPLIES

- Sketch paper and/or journals
- Pencils or charcoal pencils
- Erasers

## RESOURCES

- MOWA: Museum of Wisconsin Art  
<http://www.wisconsinart.org/archives/artist/santos-zingale/profile-193.aspx>
- WVM Traveling Art Exhibit Program  
<https://wisvetsmuseum.com/artwork/santos-zingale-artist-turned-sailor/>

