



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://wisvetmuseum.com/artwork/santos-zingale-artist-turned-sailor/>

