

# Portraiture in 21<sup>st</sup> Century

Why Bother?

# Just Take a Picture

The photographer and gallerist Alfred Stieglitz believed that portraiture painting would become obsolete throughout the beginning of the 20th century. He asserted that by the time *“photographers will have learned something about portraiture in its deeper sense...”*, the mastery of painting portraits would no longer be pursued by artists. However, history proved him wrong. In the 1980s and '90s, painters began to re-discover figuration, pushing the age-old portrait genre in new directions.

# Elizabeth Peyton

American artist Elizabeth Peyton was a leader in contemporary painting's return to figuration in the 1990s and into the 21st century. Her portraits of art-world figures and celebrities explore youth, fame, and beauty. The paintings are modest and profound at the same time. By creating a sense of intimacy, Peyton allows the viewer to get a better understanding of his or her longings, deceptions, and fears, which are subtly reflected in the portrayed subjects. Her portraits are connected with the culture of late-20th-century America. She has painted Kurt Cobain, Lady Diana, and Noel Gallagher, among others.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gWUwuXZHSxg&t=39s>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Hwl1l\\_j2vE&t=4s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Hwl1l_j2vE&t=4s)







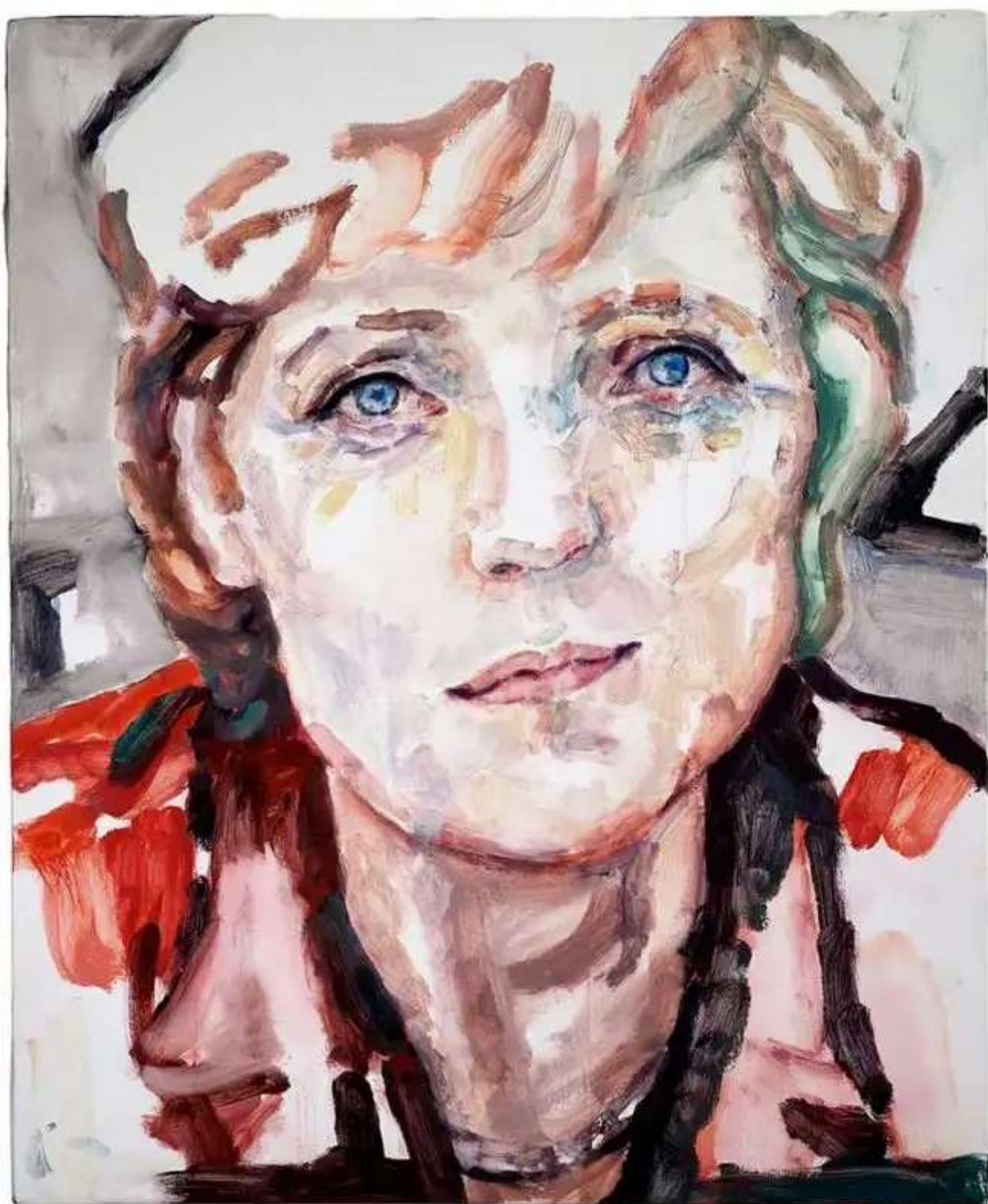
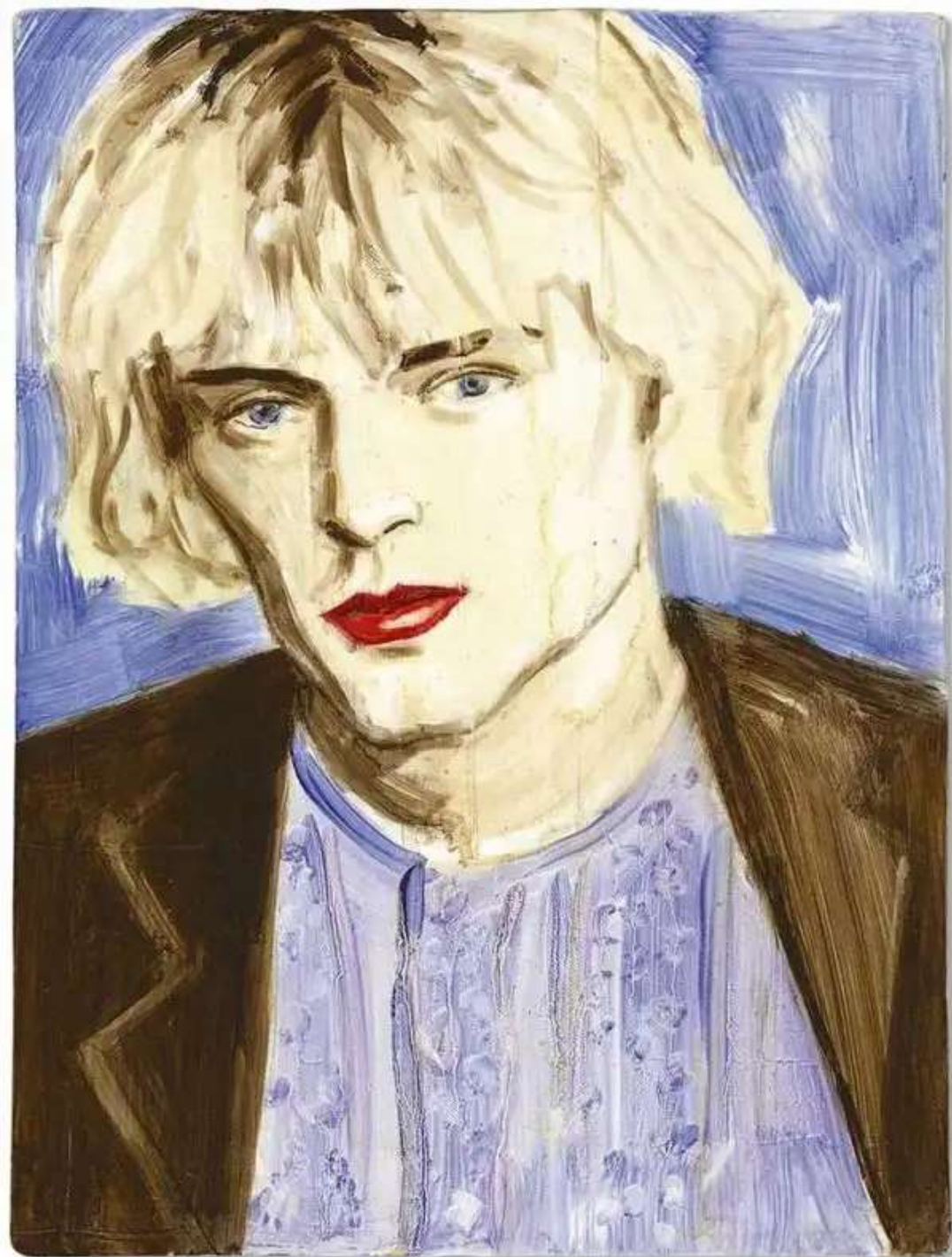














# Gerhard Richter

Gerhard Richter is widely regarded as one of the world's leading contemporary artists. During a career spanning almost fifty years, the astonishing range of his work has become a defining characteristic, with painting at the center of his development. Within that medium his scope and output have been prodigious and as a result Richter is seen by many as the greatest living painter.

From the outset portraits have been a recurring theme and this landmark exhibition explores this important aspect of Richter's work in unprecedented detail. Covering the period from the 1960s to the present, the exhibition comprises key paintings from international public and private collections, many of which have not previously been shown together.

Early black and white paintings made from magazine photographs such as *Mutter und Tochter (B)*, 1964, and portraits of close members of the artist's family such as *Betty*, 1977, are complemented by a special installation of Richter's celebrated *48 Portraits*, 1971-2. A remarkable recent painting, *Ella*, 2007, is shown here for the first time.

Collectively, the exhibition illuminates Richter's compelling but unconventional approach to portraiture. By obscuring the identities of the people depicted and questioning the relationships between them, Richter's portraits provide a fascinating insight into the way we view the world.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Upk6lACjx\\_8&t=5s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Upk6lACjx_8&t=5s)











# Bo Bartlett

Bo Bartlett is an American realist with a modernist vision. His paintings are well within the tradition of American realism as defined by artists such as Thomas Eakins and Andrew Wyeth. Like these artists, Bartlett looks at America's heart—its land and its people—and describes the beauty he finds in everyday life. His paintings celebrate the underlying epic nature of the commonplace and the personal significance of the extraordinary.

- <https://www.bobartlett.com/video->
- <https://www.milesmcenery.com/artists/bo-bartlett/video?view=slider>



























# Amy Sherald

Amy Sherald is an American painter. She works mostly as a portraitist depicting African Americans in everyday settings. Her style is simplified realism, involving staged photographs of her subjects.

- <https://art21.org/watch/art-in-the-twenty-first-century/s11/amy-sherald-in-everyday-icons/>



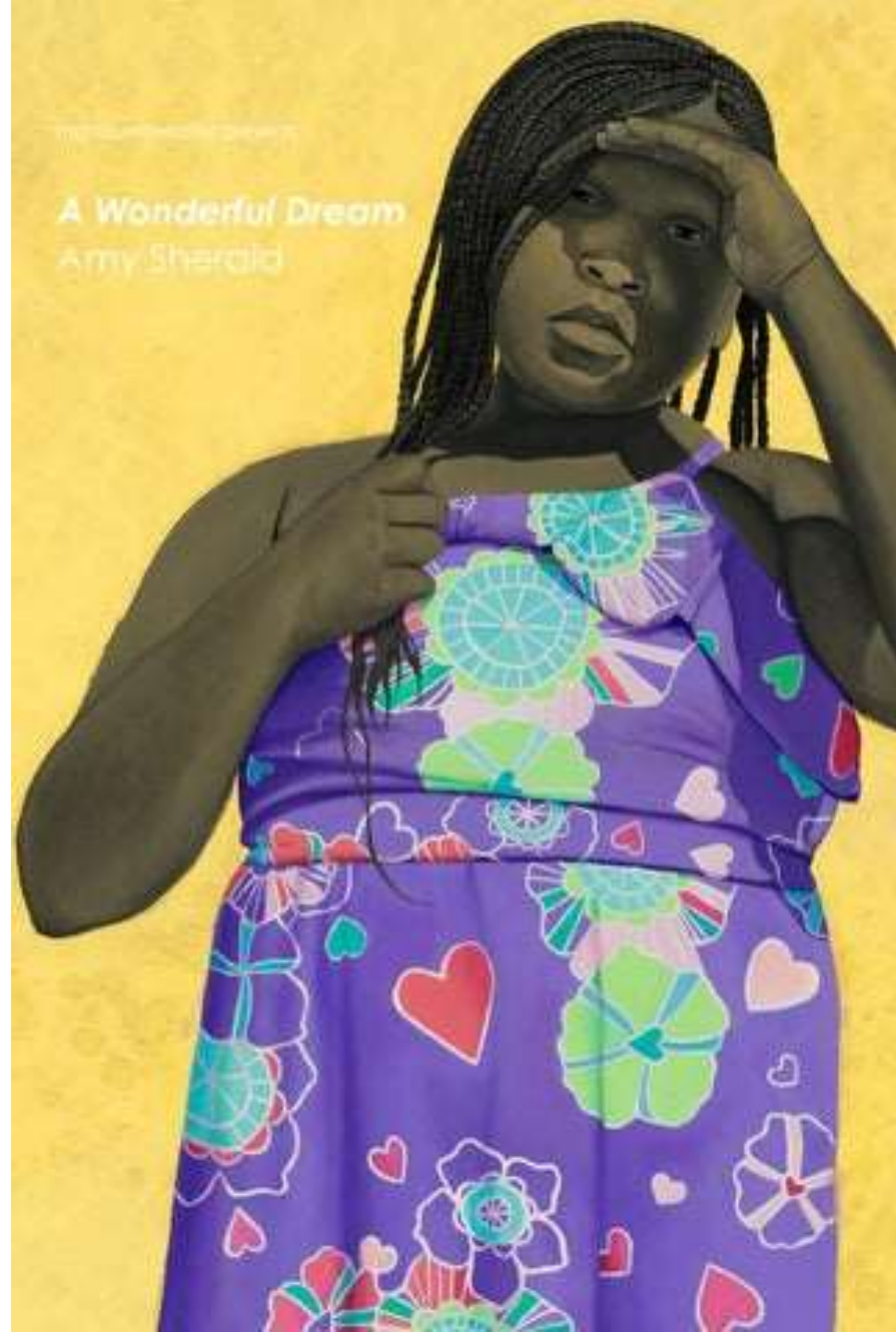










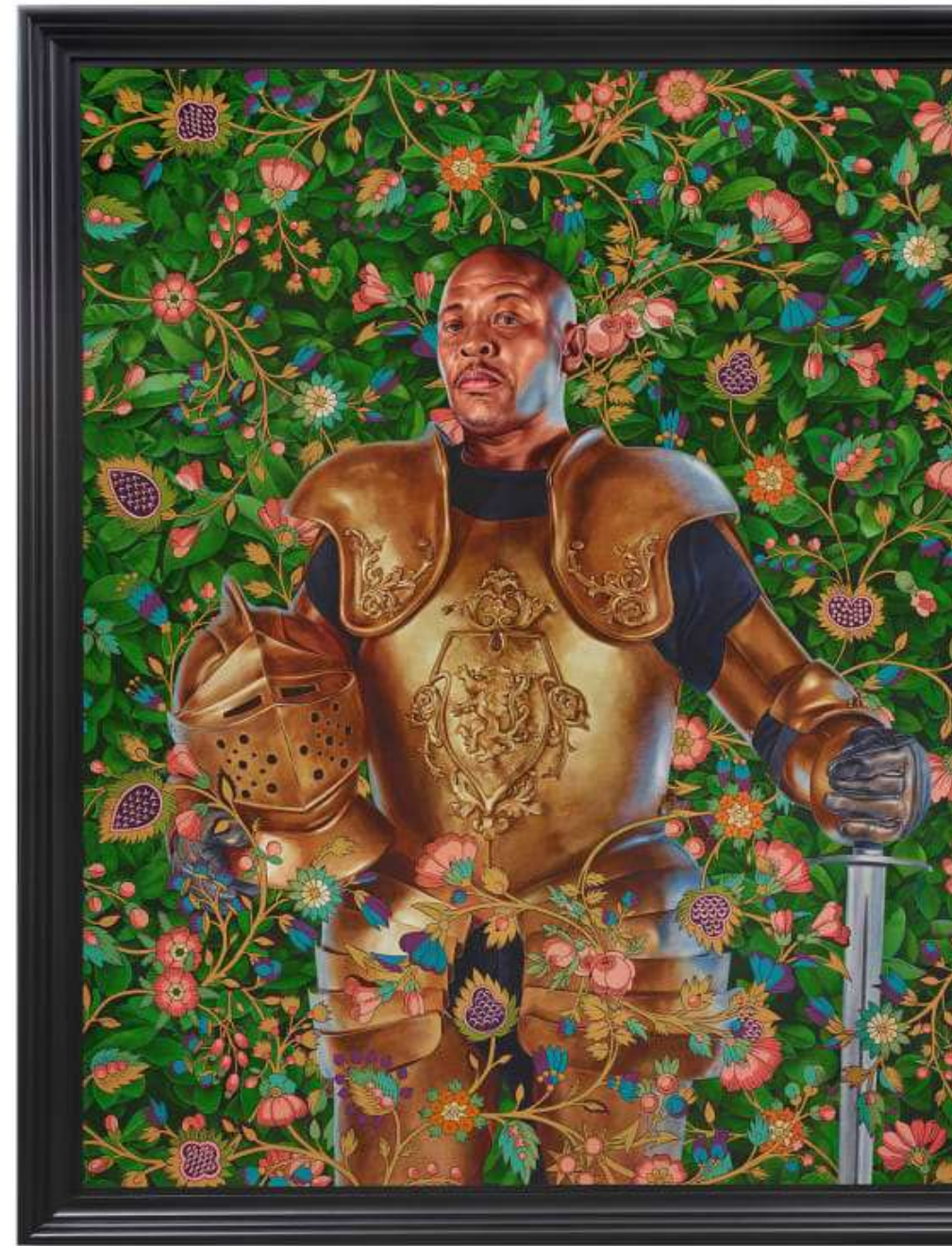




# Kehinde Wiley

- <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/kehinde-wiley-exhibit-uses-historic-icons-to-expose-systemic-violence-against-black-people>





























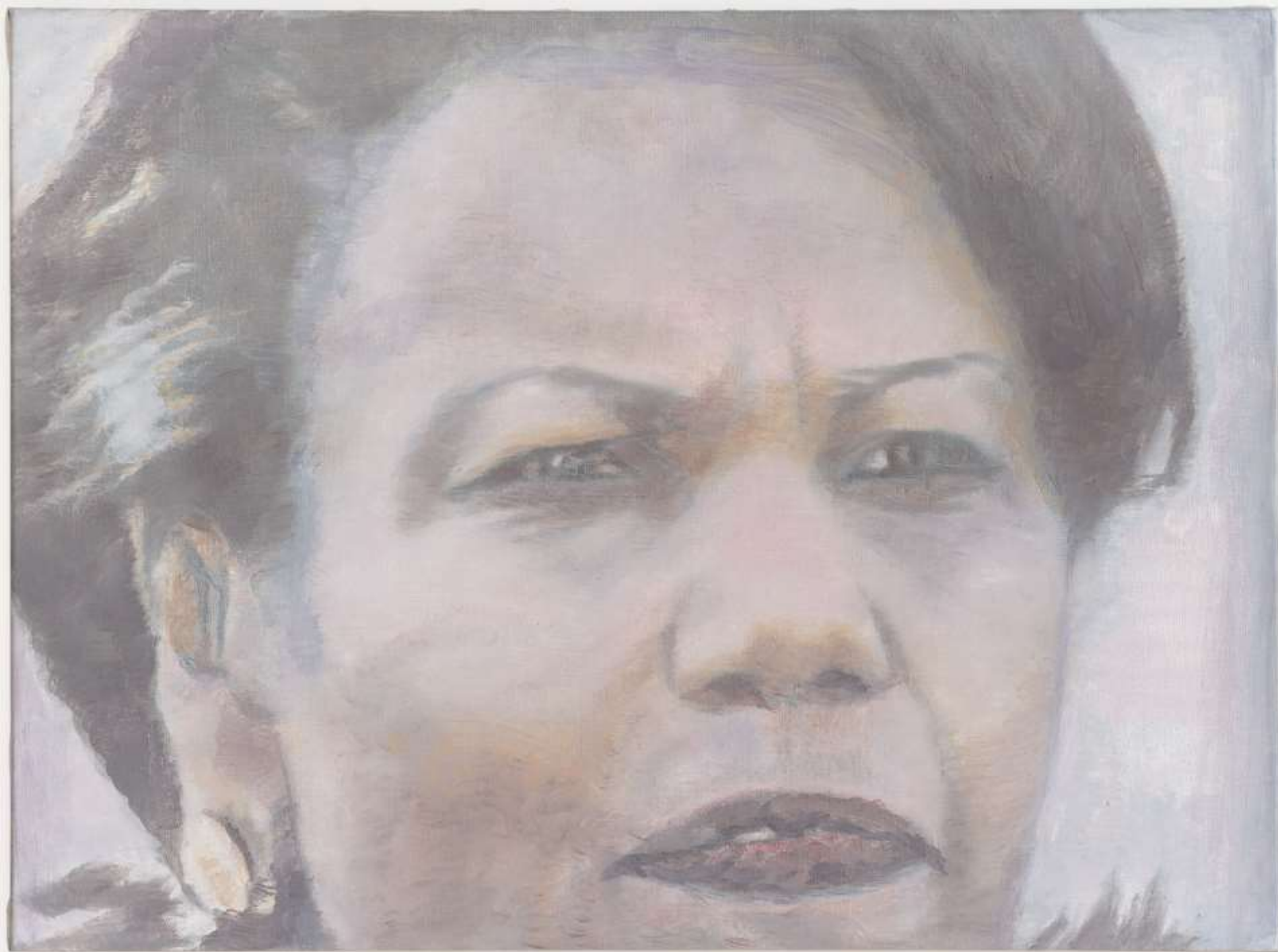
# Luc Tuymans

Luc Tuymans is a Belgian visual artist best known for his paintings which explore people's relationship with history and confront their ability to ignore it. World War II is a recurring theme in his work.

<https://www.pinaultcollection.com/palazzograssi/en/delving-deeper-world-luc-tuymans-through-his-exhibition-and-his-words>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cTKcwY-Uaf4>

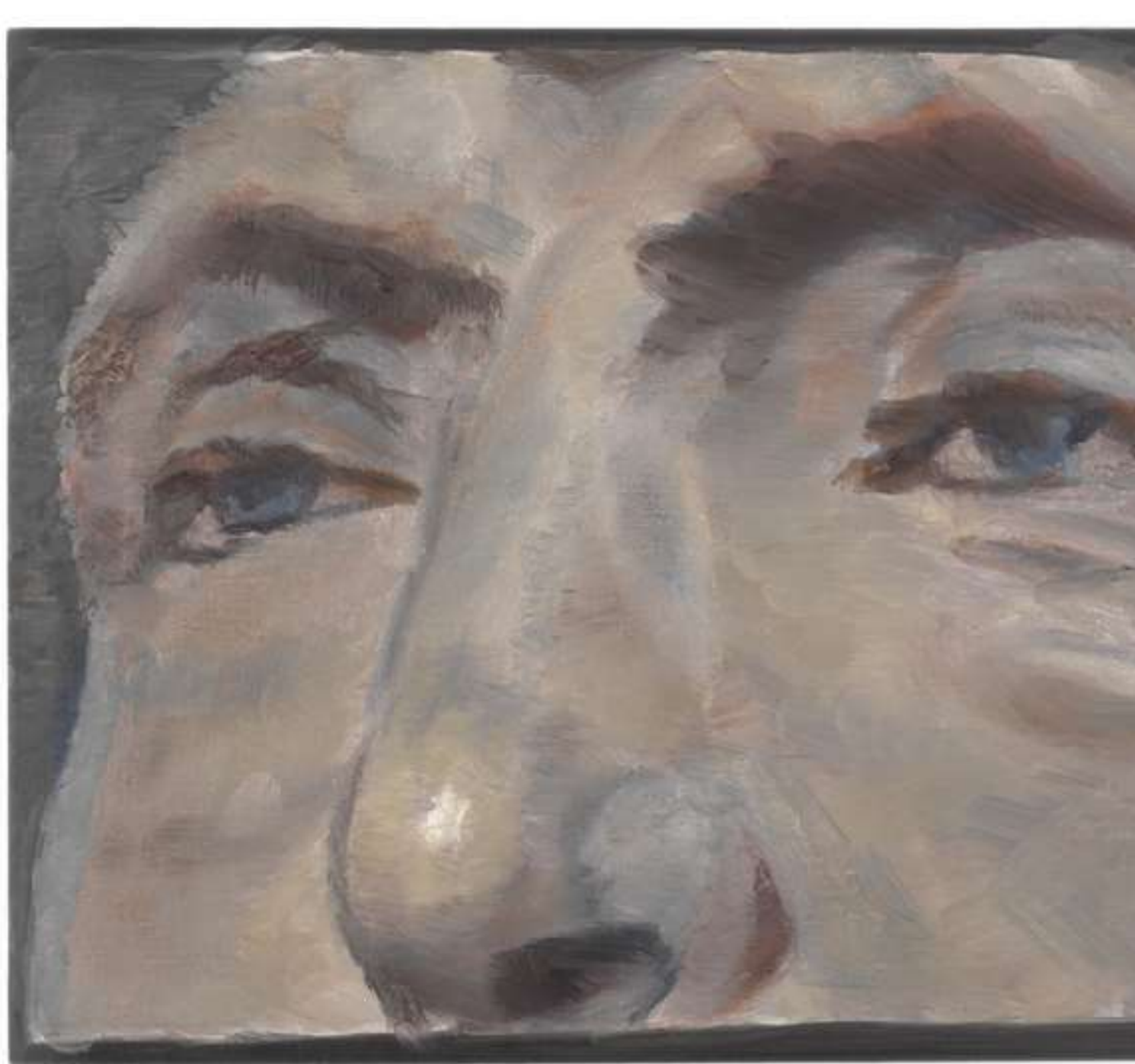














# David Jon Kassan

David Jon Kassan is an American painter best known for his life-size representational paintings, which combine figurative subjects with abstract backgrounds or trompe-l'œil stylings.

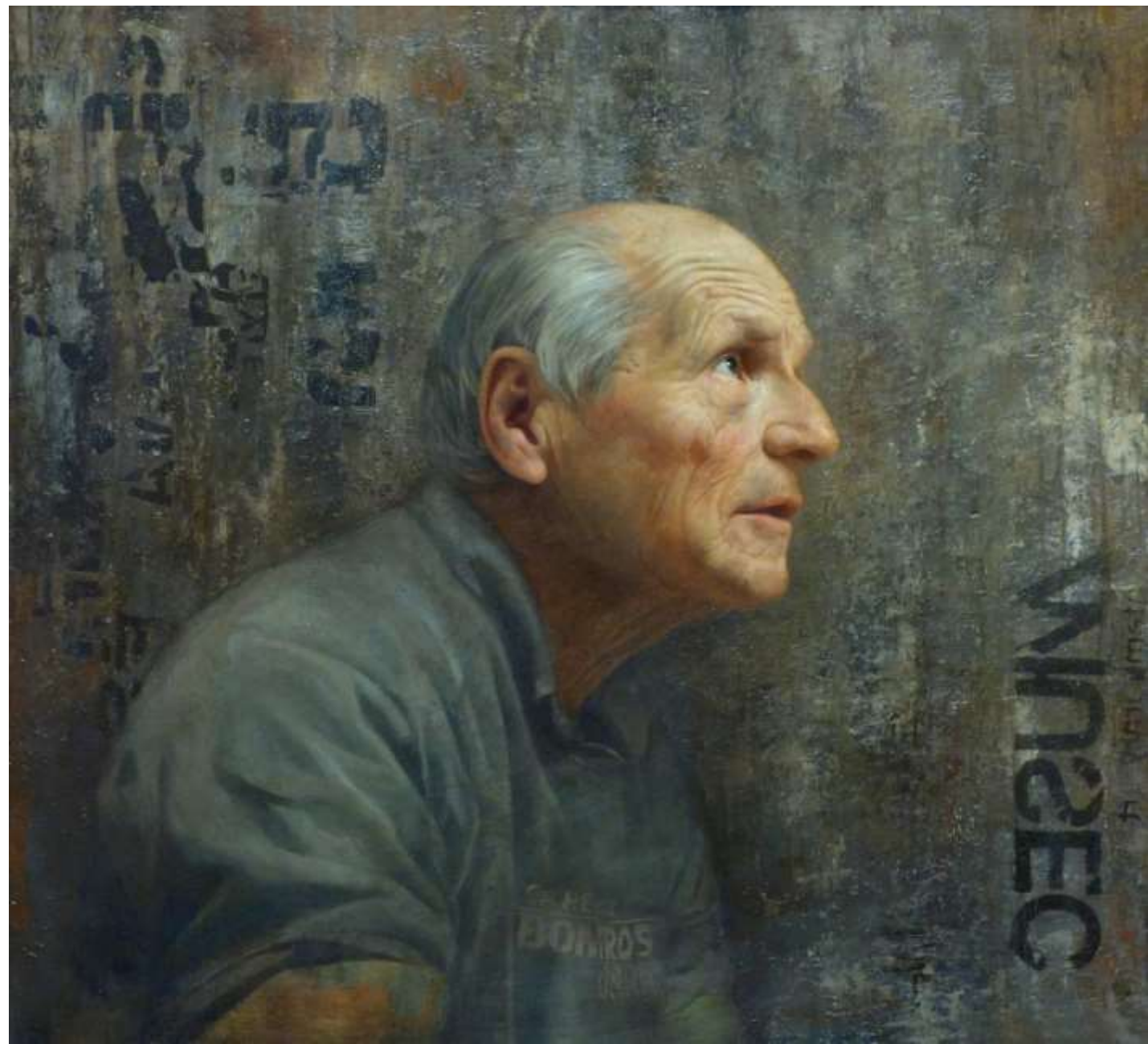
<https://www.raymarart.com/products/painting-a-life-dvd-by-david-kassan>

<https://www.raymarart.com/products/david-kassan-drawing-closer-to-life-dvd>











# Cayce Zavaglia

Cayce Zavaglia was trained as a painter but transitioned to embroidery to avoid the chemicals. She uses the direction of her stitches much like a painter would use brushstrokes, creating highly-realistic and expressive images. What makes her work even better is the second image created on the back.

- **Website:** <http://www.caycezavaglia.com/>
- <https://www.thisiscolossal.com/2018/02/interview-cayce-zavaglia/>

























# Harmonia Rosales

At the heart of *Garden of Eve*, [Harmonia Rosales](#)' comprehensive exhibition at [UTA Artist Space](#) in Beverly Hills, is the power of narrative. The show spans years of Rosales' career, featuring dozens of portraits in oil and perhaps the grandest work she's produced thus far: encircled with lights, an upturned ship towers over the gallery, allowing viewers to pass underneath and peer upwards at the frescoed expanse.

Referencing the vessels utilized in the transatlantic slave trade, the lofty structure re-envision the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel and uses Michaelangelo's Renaissance works as a blueprint to recast Genesis through the lens of female empowerment and [Orishas](#), deities in religions of the African diaspora. Dozens of [Rosales' paintings](#), like "Birth of Eve" and her 2017 "Creation of God" that garnered viral attention, cloak the ship with a narrative that's both widely recognizable and subversive in its telling, with Black and Latinx subjects at the center. "I didn't want it to be a chapel ceiling because then that's against everything I'm trying to convey, especially with this Yoruba religion," Rosales shares with Colossal. "So why not put it on the undercarriage of a slave ship, the very thing that brought these stories to us?"

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HMwAnTHxHO0&t=154s>
- <https://www.museum.ucsb.edu/news/feature/929>
- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fWDgsS1gK\\_I&t=12s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fWDgsS1gK_I&t=12s)



























# Celia D Luna—Cholitas Bravas

**Celia D. Luna is a visual artist who specializes in fashion and portrait photography.**

She had a culturally rich childhood immersed in the Andean folklore and traditions of rural Peru. This colorful and magical landscape shaped her approach to photography and fashion. Celia brings diverse cultures and powerful women to life through her narrative approach to photography. She currently resides in Miami, a city's whose multicultural influence continues to shape her evocative style.

- <https://www.celiadluna.com/>
- <https://www.euronews.com/video/2022/02/07/meet-the-cholita-skateboarders-breaking-down-stereotypes-in-bolivia>



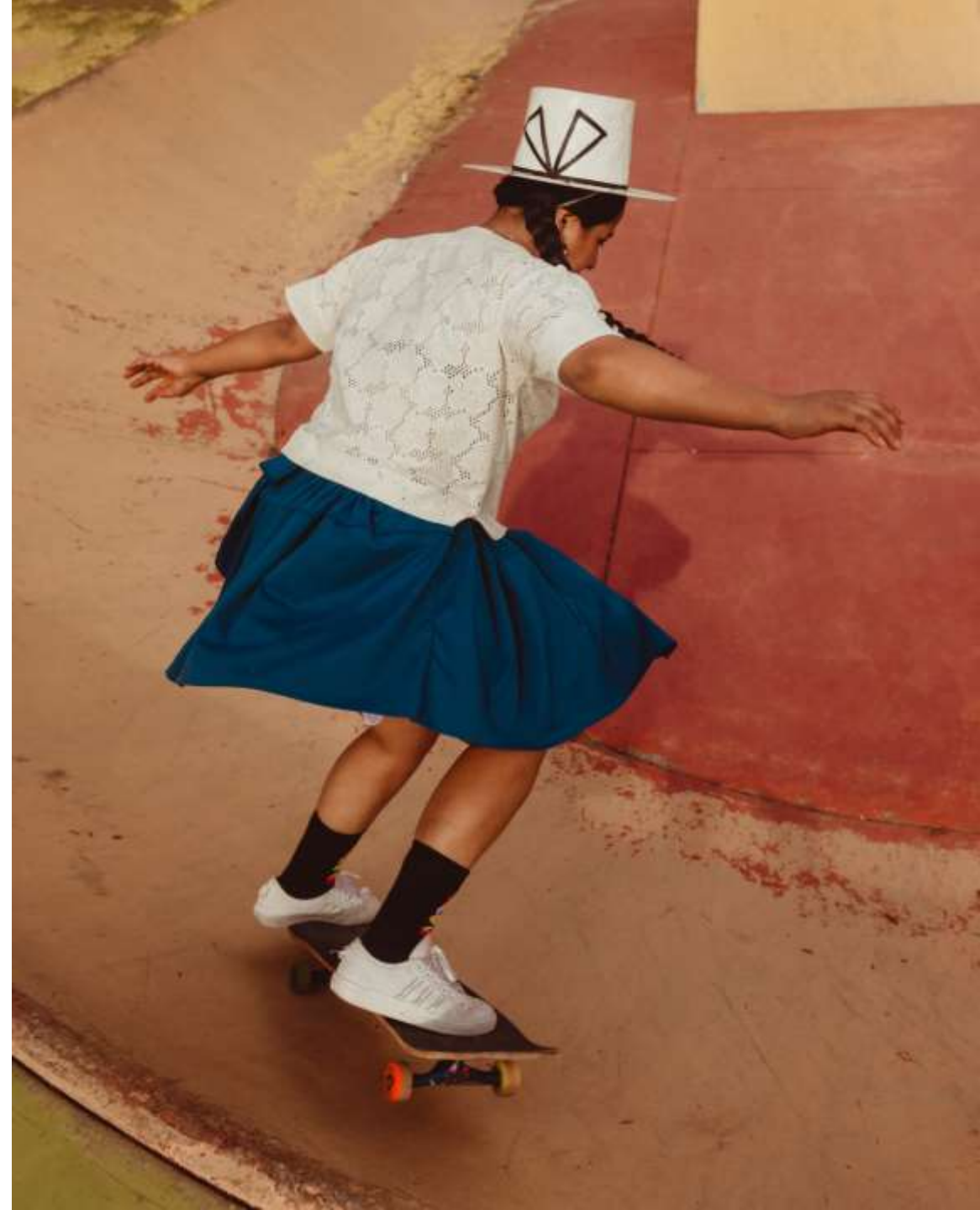














# Assignment Suggestions...

- Create a portrait of your favorite person (it does not have to be photorealistic)
- Reinterpret a famous portrait.