

Mixed-Media Power Pose



Kehinde Wiley is an American painter who is best known for his realistic portraits of Black people in heroic poses based on traditional European paintings. Wiley traveled to different countries, including India, China, Senegal, and Israel, to paint young people from diverse backgrounds for his series titled "The World Stage." In this activity, you will create a mixed-media portrait using drawing and collage.

Materials needed:

- Paper
- Pencil
- Markers or Colored pencils
- Collage papers or construction paper
- Scissors
- Glue

Look:

- What do you notice about this person and their pose?
- What shapes, colors, or objects do you see in the background? The background of this painting was inspired by a traditional papercut design.

Process:

- Strike a pose that expresses something about you. Have an adult take a photo of you on a phone or whatever device you may have available.
- Using your photo for inspiration, draw yourself using a pencil on a white sheet of paper. Make your portrait large on the paper.
- Add color to your portrait using colored pencils or markers.
- Inspired by the vivid background of Wiley's painting, create patterns surrounding your portrait with cut paper. Think about images from nature such as leaves, trees, or favorite animals.
- Notice how some of the patterns wrap around the figure in the painting. Find places on your portrait where patterns may collage onto your arm, shoulder, or shirt. Enjoy playing with patterns and details for your unique self-portrait.