Many Faces, Many Places

People, Cultures and Communities in Art
A portrait is an image of a person, especially of the face.

What do you see?

What do these portraits tell us about these people?

What has the artist chosen to leave out of these portraits?
William-Adolphe Bouguereau, French.  
*Young Priestess*  [1973.1]

Jefferson Gauntt, American.  
*Portrait of Sophia Josephine Dixon*, [1942.45]

Sarah Rutherford, American.  
*Safi*, [2019.5]  
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What do you see?  
What is the same about these works of art?  What is different?  
Where might these people be from?  What clues do you see in the portraits?
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Where might these people be from? What clues do you see in the portraits?
Would you call these works of art portraits? Why or why not?

Which features look “realistic?” Which features are just decorative?
By placing people into settings like homes and communities, artists tell us about people and their lives in different times and places.

What can you tell about these people from their settings?
Describe what you see.

How many different kinds of portraits do you see?

What questions would you like to ask this man?

Walter Goodman, British. 
The Printseller's Window, 1882–1884. 
Oil on canvas  [1998.75]
Many different faces, from many different places…

These are just a few of the faces you will see in works of art at the Memorial Art Gallery. How are they the same? How are they different? What questions do you have?