

Chris and Bernard Marden Community Gallery

Student Exhibition 2025-2026

As the Norton Museum of Art hosts special exhibition *Art and Life in Rembrandt's Time: Masterpieces from the Leiden Collection*, we invite students to explore portraits and character studies by leading artists of 17th-century Netherlands. Featuring more than 70 works of art - including 17 by Rembrandt - this exhibition is a rare opportunity for students to tap into the artist's remarkable ability to capture human expression and emotion. Moreover, these timeless treasures are great for examining the always-relevant theme of portraiture and comprehending its evolution over the centuries.

The Museum encourages students from Palm Beach County middle and high schools to submit original works of art inspired by the following theme:

Portrait Mode

Self-reflections from past, present and future

Students: depict who you are or choose an alternate place and time to re-imagine yourself through an innovative approach to portraiture. Create a self-portrait that brings forth your character, interests and emotions, considering one of the following approaches:

- Nostalgic Portrayal

Have you ever looked at an old family photo and wished you could have been there? Create a portrait that brings forth emotions associated with longing, comfort, remembrance and familiarity with memories from the past.

- Fictional Time Travel

Be inspired by a historical era that resonates with you. Integrate your portrait into a moment in history, highlighting a time and a place that shaped the world as we know it.

- Future Visions

How do you think you might look or live in the future? Let the viewer have a glimpse of your future self through a work of art that illustrates the life you envision.

- Here and Now

Depict yourself within the present. Express your feelings and reflect your current state of mind through a self-portrait that feels like a “snapshot,” a direct interpretation of your identity.

- Who or What

Experiment with an object-portrait that incorporates objects that embody your aspirations and interests and convey your true essence.

Don't forget to incorporate elements that will allow viewers to “read” your self-portrait better such as, but not limited to:

- **Facial expression** revealing preferred emotions and feelings.
- **Pose** communicating your personality or intention.
- **Settings** offering insights into the context of your portrait.
- **Colors** setting the tone and overall mood of your portrait.
- **Objects and symbols** personifying you in a non-literal way and conveying who you are.
- **Scale** communicating how you relate to the environment or composition.
- **Artistic style and technique** contributing to the portrait's overall message and impact.

1. All mediums are welcome (paintings, photographs, mixed media collages, video, digital media, 3D works of art).
2. Up to five student artworks can be submitted per teacher, per school.
3. Norton staff will review and score all submissions to select fifty artworks for display in the Marden Community Gallery.

4. From the fifty selected artworks, a jury committee will award three students with scholarship money. The selection process will be informed by a defined scoring rubric.
5. Awards will be presented during the opening ceremony for the Marden Community Gallery Student Exhibition 2025-2026.
6. Video artwork will be scored more stringently due to the limited availability of TV screens in the Marden Gallery.
7. Inclusion in the exhibition is NOT guaranteed.
8. The Norton Museum of Art reserves the right to reject any submissions deemed inappropriate for younger viewers or sensitive in subject matter.

Important Dates

Virtual workshop on Marden Gallery Student Exhibition 2025-2026

theme: August 21, 2025, 4:30 – 5:30pm.

Last day for teachers to submit online student artwork (maximum of 5 artworks per teacher): November 14, 2025

Norton emails teachers with the final list of selected artworks for the student exhibition: Week of December 8, 2025

Teachers bring selected artworks to the Norton: Week of December 15, 2025

Student exhibition opening date: January 10, 2026

Student exhibition awards ceremony: January 11, 2026

Student exhibition closing date: August 16, 2026

Teachers collect student artworks from the Norton: Week of August 17, 2026

Helpful Links

1. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7xU8wC7sQl8>

(The Elements of Portrayal, video from the National Portrait Gallery).

2. <https://npg.si.edu/teachers/classroom-resources>

(Classroom resources on portraiture from the National Portrait Gallery).

3. <https://learninglab.si.edu/collections/reading-portraiture-a-guide-for-educators/AkwthxLAbBPpTY8>

(Reading Portraiture: A Guide for Educators from the Smithsonian Learning Lab).

4. https://npg.si.edu/sites/default/files/gac_introduction_to_portraiture.pdf

(Lesson plan on Introduction to Portraiture and Identity from the National Portrait Gallery).

5. <https://youtu.be/4P04x9p1FX>

(Portrait Mode: Portraits Deconstructed video from the National Portrait Gallery).

6. <https://www.theleidencollection.co>

a. (The Leiden Collection)

7. <https://www.npg.org.uk/schools-hub>

(National Portrait Gallery's school hub in UK)

Important Note: Only TEACHERS can submit artworks on behalf of their students.