

## AT-HOME ART PROJECT: Portrait INSTRUCTIONS

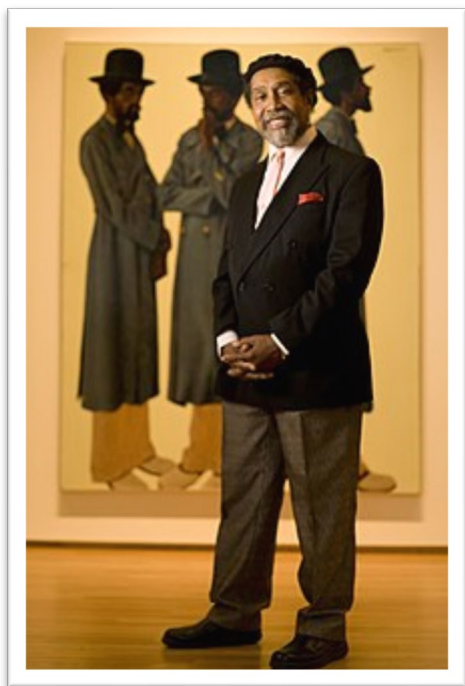


Photo by Duke Photography

### INSPIRATION ARTIST:

**Barkley Hendricks, (April 16, 1945 – April 18, 2017)**

Barkley L. Hendricks was an African-American painter and photographer best known for his life-sized, full-length oil portraits depicting urban Black subjects from everyday life. His models were friends, family members, strangers, and, not infrequently, himself.

Hendricks was born and grew up in Tioga, Pennsylvania, a neighborhood in North Philadelphia. After graduating from high school in 1963, he enrolled at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, where he had attended summer programs as a child. During his third year he experienced the art and culture of Europe through overseas study in Great Britain, Italy, the Netherlands, and Spain. Deeply drawn to the portraiture of the Old Masters, including Diego Velázquez and Anthony van Dyck, Hendricks was dismayed by the absence of dark-skinned subjects. A desire to fill that void informed the direction of his career as a working artist.

During the late 1960s and early 1970s, Hendricks served in the New Jersey National Guard, taught arts and crafts through the Philadelphia Department of Recreation, and furthered his formal education with both bachelor's and master's degrees in fine art at Yale University. Upon graduation from Yale, he remained there as a studio art professor until he retired in 2010.

Although his work encompassed multiple media and genres, including watercolor, drawing, photography, and landscape painting, Hendricks was best known for his full-length, life-sized oil portraits of urban Black men and women.

In 2008 his visibility as a major American contemporary artist was boosted worldwide with the launch of *Barkley L. Hendricks: Birth of the Cool*, a traveling exhibit of 50 paintings dating back to 1964. In 2016, Hendricks offered this explanation of his portraits: "I'm just trying to do the best painting of the individuals who have piqued my curiosity and made me want to paint them."

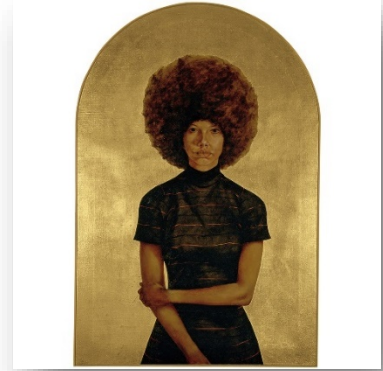
## LESSON PLAN



*Sweet Thang* (Lynn Jenkins), 1976



*Sir Charles, Alias Harris*, 1972



*Lawdy Mama*, 1969

### MATERIALS NEEDED FROM HOME:

- Printed COPY of a photo of an inspiring person in your life. This can be anyone that inspires you and your family: a family member, a teacher, a friend, a public figure.
- Pencil
- Pencil Sharpener (if available as needed, not essential)
- White 8.5" x 11" Paper (1 piece)
- Colored pencils, Crayons or Markers
- Painters Tape (or any tape you have on hand)
- Optional: construction paper or cardstock for background, glue stick, drawing board (cutting board, cookie sheet etc.)

### ART PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Participants will create portraiture work of art inspired by Barkley Hendricks paintings, using a window or patio door as a "lightbox". The subject of the artwork will be an inspirational family member or a figure who inspires your family.

### VOCABULARY:

**Lightbox:** a translucent surface illuminated from behind, used for situations where a shape laid upon the surface needs to be seen with high contrast

**Portrait:** a painting, drawing, photograph, or engraving of a person, especially one depicting only the face or head and shoulders

**Composition:** the arrangement of elements within a work of art

**Palette:** the range of colors used by a particular artist or in a particular picture

# ARTS EDUCATION PROGRAM

## LESSON PLAN

### PROMPT QUESTIONS:

1. Who is someone that inspires you and your family? Why?
2. How would you like to represent this inspirational person?

### ART MAKING PROCESS:

#### Step 1:

PREP: Think about and choose a person in your family that inspires you or someone that inspires your family. Find a few photos of that person either online, in a photo album or in a book or magazine to photocopy (**FIG. 1**). You will want all images to fit on your 8.5x11 copy paper.

#### Step 2:

Take a moment to look at Barkley Hendricks' *Sir Charles, Alias Willie Harris*. Notice how the figure is arranged, standing and repositioned in his painting. Start by cutting your photos then taking your images and arranging them on your 8.5x11 paper. Arrange your images until you are satisfied with your composition (**FIG. 2**).

#### Step 3:

Tape your first image to a sunny window or glass door (**FIG. 3**). Tape your blank 8.5 x 11 copy paper over it, positioning the image underneath, where you want it to be in your composition. Check to make sure your other images will fit where you'd like them in your layout (**FIG. 4**). Using your pencil, begin tracing your first image. You do not have to trace every line or detail, focus on larger shapes instead of fine detail (**FIG. 5**).

#### Step 4:

Continue your portrait by removing the first image from your window and taping the second one in the position where you want to trace it. Consider overlapping or layering your images (**FIG. 6**). Continue this process until you have traced all your images with different angles you want in your work of art (**FIG. 7**).

#### Step 5:

Remove your finished sketch from your window and move to a table or desk to finish your artwork. You can also choose to create a drawing board from an object you have at hand, cutting boards and cookie sheets work well. If your images don't fill your 8.5x11 sheet you can tape off, or cut, to crop areas of the paper to create a smaller piece (**FIG. 8**). Refer back to the original photo images to add color. Select your palette (it does not have to be the same colors in your photos, as the artist, you can choose different colors if you'd like). Use your artist eye to decide what colors you want to use. If your images have different outfits on that's ok! Try to make all the images, and their outfits, as similar as possible.

#### Step 8:

Using colored pencils, (colored markers or crayons) fill in large areas of color on your portrait (**FIG. 9**). Think about if you'd like to add a background to your work of art, and what it might look like. Think about what background color or design will make your portrait pop!

## LESSON PLAN

**Step 9:** OPTIONAL: Using glue or tape, mount your finished piece of artwork on a piece of cardstock or construction paper (**FIG. 10**).

### POST PROJECT PROMPT QUESTIONS:

1. Who did you choose for your portrait. Why?
2. Have you ever tried to draw a portrait?
3. Did you enjoy the lightbox tracing process? Why or why not?

### ART PROJECT STEP-BY-STEP EXAMPLES:

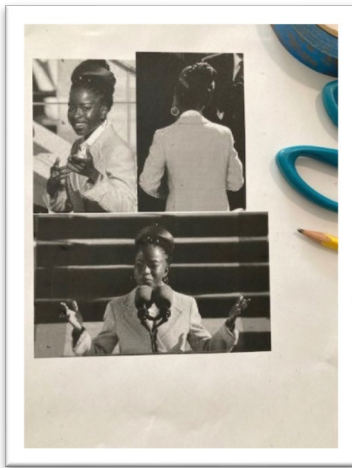


FIG. 1



FIG. 2

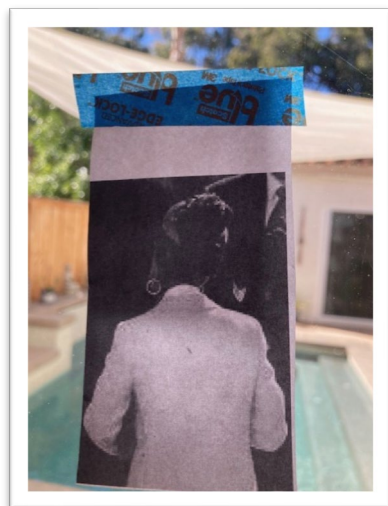


FIG. 3

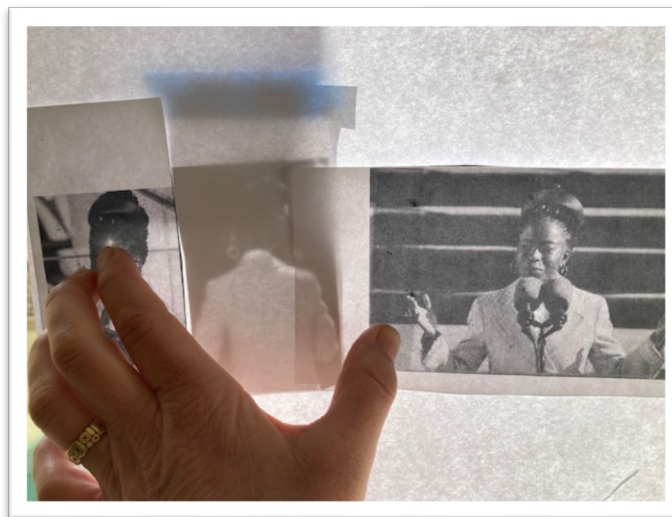


FIG. 4

LESSON PLAN



FIG. 5



FIG. 6



FIG. 7

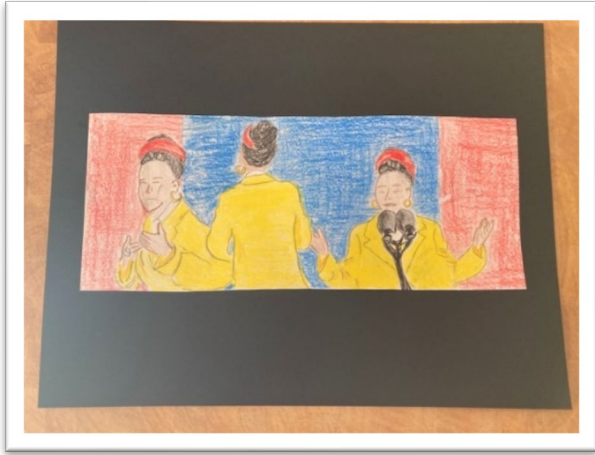


FIG. 8



FIG. 9

## LESSON PLAN



**FIG. 10**

**OTHER ARTISTS FROM THIS ERA TO CONSIDER (Civil Rights and Black Power Movements Artists 1946-1975):**

- Romare Bearden
- Charles Henry Alston
- Gwendolyn A. Magee
- Gordon Parks

# ARTS EDUCATION PROGRAM

# LESSON PLAN

## CITY OF CARLSBAD LIBRARY SOURCES:

### **Digital:**

[Gale in Context: Biography](#)

[Gale in Context: High School](#)

[Gale in Context: U.S. History](#)

[NYTimes.com](#)

[ProQuest Newspapers](#)

## ONLINE SOURCES:

1. Gothamist: <https://gothamist.com/arts-entertainment/barkley-l-hendricks-birth-of-the-cool-at-studio-museum-in-harlem>
2. Studio Museum Harlem: <https://studiomuseum.org/exhibition/barkley-l-hendricks-birth-cool>
3. Sotheby's: <https://www.sothebys.com/en/artists/barkleyhendricks#:~:text=Hendricks%20Biography&text=Born%20in%201945%20in%20Philadelphia,until%20his%20retirement%20in%202010>

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