

HUNDRED<sup>+</sup>  
HEROINES<sub>♀</sub>

# MAKING PORTRAITS

**Etinosa Yvonne**

*Colours of the North*



*All images © Etinosa Yvonne*

# LOOKING at ART

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**Most of us decide immediately whether we like a piece of art or not.**

But if we look at art more closely and learn how to read, observe and analyse the work, we can understand its place in history, its hidden meanings and its cultural importance

**Looking at art more closely  
can also help to inspire  
YOUR own creativity.**

# FIRST LOOK

Before finding out anything about them, look at these photographs by Etinosa Yvonne from a project called *Colours of the North*.

What are your **FIRST** reactions?















































# PORTRAITS

Portraits have been made for centuries for many reasons: to explore changes in fashion or identity, to show power, wealth and social standing, to celebrate important events, or simply to record a person's likeness.

Some portraits confront social and moral issues, others explore feelings or artistic techniques.

Keep

looking....



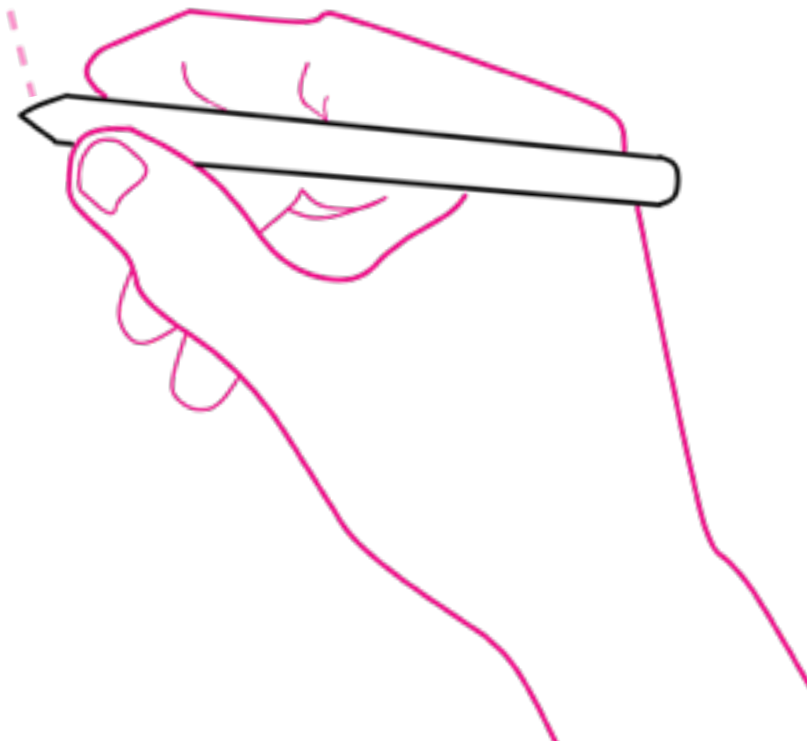
# SKETCHING

Choose one portrait from the series that you're drawn to.

First, look at the composition 'from a distance'

Then, look closer to examine details such as **expression** and **structure**.

Spend 5 minutes sketching it – as you draw, think about the importance of each area of the image.





# LOOKING MORE CLOSELY

What do you think the artist is saying about the sitter?  
How is she saying it?

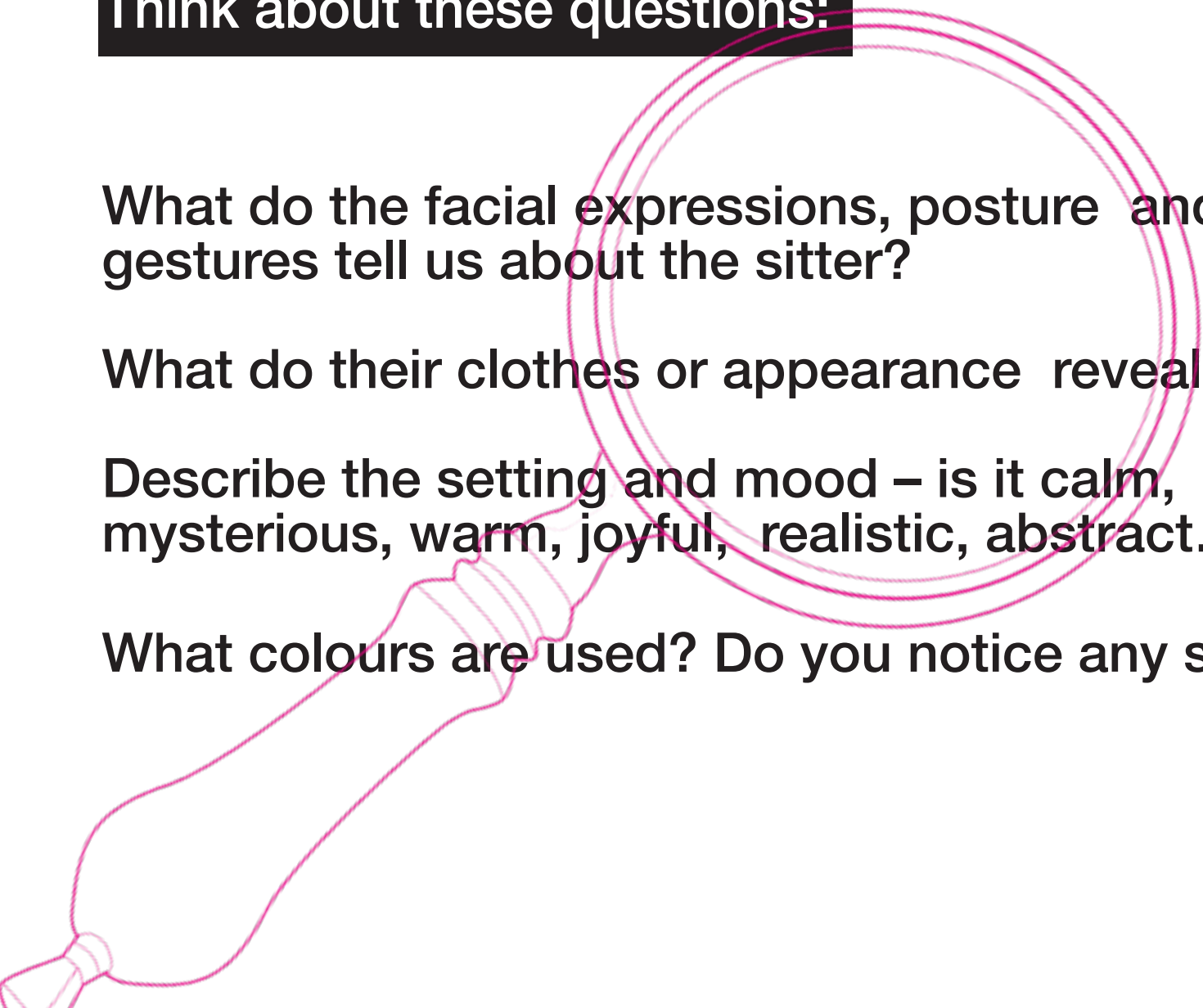
Think about these questions:

What do the facial expressions, posture and gestures tell us about the sitter?

What do their clothes or appearance reveal about them?

Describe the setting and mood – is it calm, dramatic, cold, mysterious, warm, joyful, realistic, abstract...?

What colours are used? Do you notice any strong contrasts?





# LOOKING MORE CLOSELY

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How is she saying it?

Think about these questions:

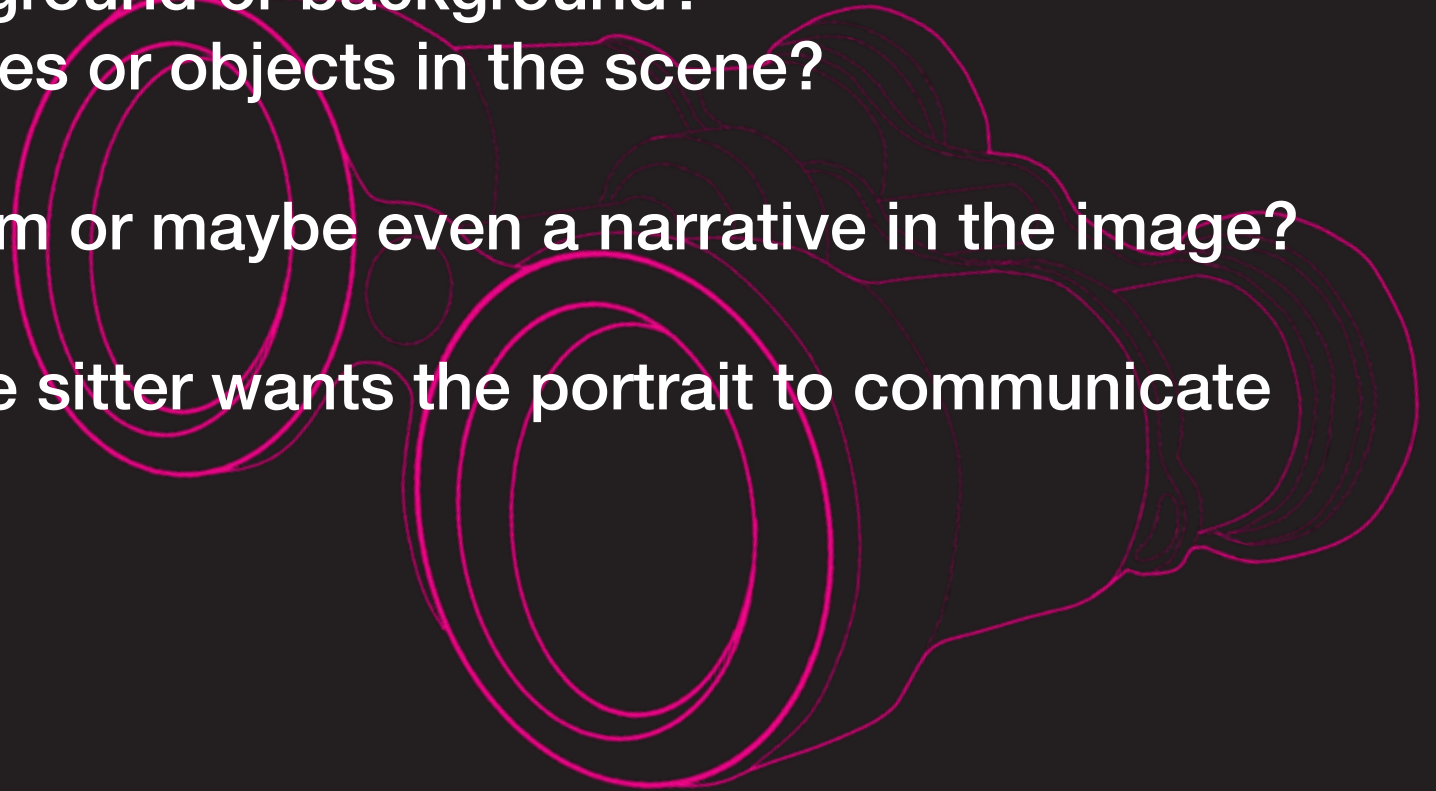
How do camera angles affect our impression of the person?

Is there a strong foreground or background?

Are there other features or objects in the scene?

Is there any symbolism or maybe even a narrative in the image?

What do you think the sitter wants the portrait to communicate about themselves?





# THE ARTIST'S STATEMENT

This is what Etinosa wrote about **Colours of the North**:

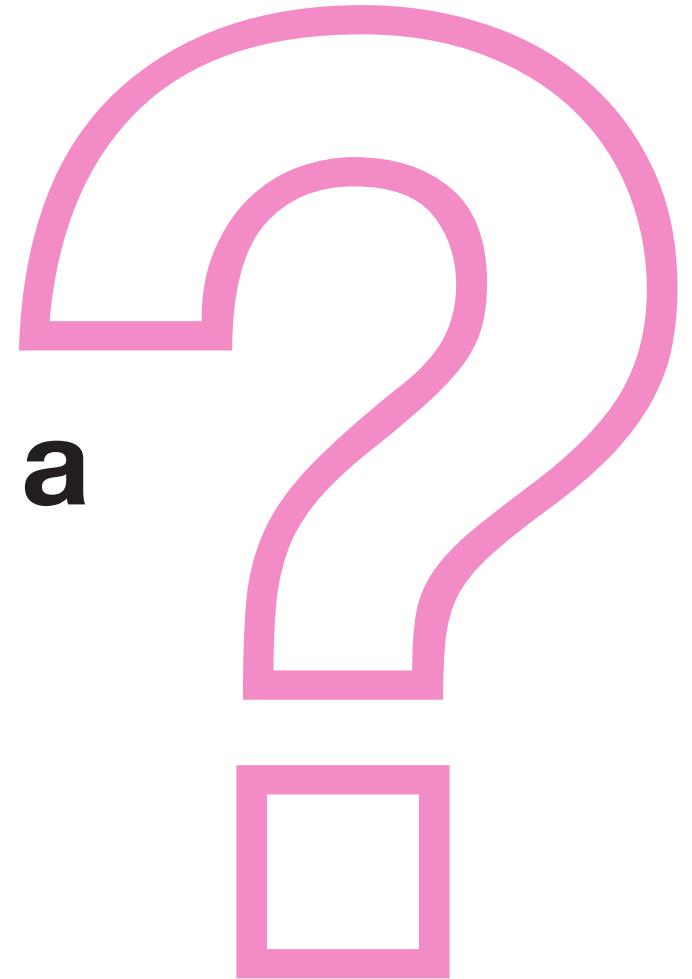
“

*I began solo travelling in 2015. While I haven't covered all 36 states in Nigeria, I have been to all the regions in the country. However, I am always in awe whenever I travel to the Northern part of Nigeria. While Nigerians are quite colourful, there is an unmatched vibrancy that exists in the Northern part of Nigeria.*

*In June 2019, while in Zaria for an assignment and subsequently a vacation, I seized the opportunity to capture the beauty, joy and colours that come with the Sallah celebration. All images taken in Dakace, Zaria.*

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**If you had to make a portrait, could you apply a similar approach to your own creative work?**





# CREATE A PORTRAIT

**Try making a portrait which says something about the culture of your sitter.**

**Choose your sitter (it could be a family member, a friend, a neighbour) and talk about specific parts of their culture that are important to them and how they feel about them (think about special events, customs or traditions).**

# CREATE A PORTRAIT

## Ask yourself:

What colours and mood do I associate with this culture/event?

What setting do I want to create or use?

Is clothing important?

How can facial expression, posture and gestures communicate what the sitter wants to say about themselves?

What camera angle and perspective should I use?

Where will I position my sitter in the frame?

What will I foreground and background?

Will I include other objects in the composition?

**Create a piece of art that expresses these ideas visually. Portraits can be photographs (including taken with phones), or drawn or painted – use materials that are close to hand!**





**Share your portraits on IG!**  
**Tag us and use the hashtag**  
**#HHPortraits**