

Name :

Hour :

Chuck Close Inspired Self-Portraits



When Chuck Close began painting in the early 1970's, he created works that were photorealistic. **Photorealism** was a method of painting that was so detailed the finished works looked like photographs. Chuck Close took large polaroid photos of his family, friends, and fellow artists, then used a grid method to enlarge them to mural size. (Most of his paintings were 9 feet tall!) Each section of the grid was treated as a unique painting and was painted separately.

In 1988, Close's style changed. He suffered a spinal blood clot and became a quadriplegic. He became unable to control his tools with as much detail as he could before, so he had to adapt his painting style. Using a special holster on his wrist to hold a brush he learned to paint a new kind of portrait. Instead of photorealistic work, his paintings are now **representational** and are based more on **pointillism**. He still treats the sections of the grid individually, but they are less detailed. Each section has separate colors that blend visually when a viewer steps back from the painting.



Project :

For this project you will be creating a large, expression-filled, **self-portrait** that is based on the processes used by Chuck Close. We will take and print digital photos before you begin.

Please follow the guidelines on the next page for a successful project.



Use light, soft, pencil lines when drawing the grid on your drawing paper and on your photo.

- Your photo should have a $\frac{1}{2}$ inch grid.
- Your drawing paper should have a **2-inch grid**.
- Number and letter the grid on your photo and your paper so everything is aligned. (Make sure you have the same number of boxes in both grids!)

- Keep **pencil lines light and soft** when drawing your portrait. These lines are much easier to erase than hard, thick pencil lines.
- When coloring your drawing, work on one square at a time, making sure it is colored in neatly and completely. Use good **craftsmanship**, and stick to no more than 4 colors. Think about how the background colors work with, or contrast with, the colors used in the face.



- Trim off any extra boxes when you are finished!

