

National Docent Symposium 2017 Art Gallery of Ontario Workshop

ATTEMPTING TO PAINT WITH WORDS

Through this workshop we will explore one way of sharing painting with persons who are blind or have low vision.

This activity will explore a portrait by asking participants to close their eyes or use a blindfold with a partner.

Activity steps:

- 4- 6 participants
- 3 participants will select a partner
- The partners will explore the portrait in the following three stages:

Description - Part 1:

People with sight explain portrait to their partner who is wearing a blindfold or closing their eyes.

- Size, portrait, media, style
- Next partners describe the person in the portrait
- Next partners will interpret the personality of the portrait by describing the expression and attitude represented (i.e. colours, stance, gesture, composition)

Role Playing - Part 2:

Exchange roles!

The partners will switch roles. The person who can't see will experience their partner's face through touch.

- Partners face each other and touch their faces, while describing to each other what they are feeling and experiencing
- Dialogue should occur throughout the experience
- Focus on portrait features and discuss the following with your partner:
 - head size
 - nose
 - eye spacing
 - neck
 - hair length
- Feedback discussion:
 - How did you feel when your partner explored your face?
 - What did you experience as the person who could not see?

Art making - Part 3:

Create your own three dimensional portrait with Model Magic.

How do you feel actually working with the clay and experiencing your own creation?