

Look, See, Talk & Do

An Exhibition Guide for **families**



Welcome to
WOMEN: New Portraits
Annie Leibovitz

This guide aims to support families with children aged 4 to 10 years to engage with the portraits of women included in the exhibition in an interactive and playful way.

At a time when 'selfies' have become the rage, what can it mean to make a portrait of someone and display it within an exhibition?

We invite you to help the children you are with connect with the content of this exhibition and to link it back to their own experiences of portraiture, photography and the theme of women.

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Pulling a Face

Look at the photographs of people's faces. Pick one that you like. What is their expression like – serious, funny, sad, proud? Write three words to describe their expression below.

Can you imitate this expression? Ask someone to take a photograph of you with this expression and then hold your portrait next to the portrait you've chosen to imitate – how do they compare?

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Can you take my picture?

Ask someone from your family to take your portrait – close up, just head and shoulders. What expression will you have – a cheeky smile or a tired frown?

Now, look at your portrait and see if you can find a portrait of someone in the exhibition that matches the expression you are wearing in your picture. (If you can't find a person whose expression matches yours, see if you can find someone with the opposite expression!) Write down their name here:

What do you know about this person? What does their expression say about them? Discuss this with your family.

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Family Portraits

Find Annie Leibovitz's family portrait. How do you think she made it?

Do you have a favourite family photo? Explain in a few words to someone you're with why it's your favourite family photo. Write five words or sentences that describe the photograph to someone who has never seen it.

How is it different from Annie's photo? How is it similar?

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My job is...

Find a portrait of someone in the exhibition who you recognise or have seen before. (If you don't know any of the people, find someone who you think might have an interesting, important or exciting job.)

What is their profession? Do you know or can you guess by looking at their portrait?

Draw a picture of three things you know or imagine they might use in their job:

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Black & White vs Colour

Can you find any pictures that are black and white? Why do you think Annie chose to portray the person or people in black and white, rather than colour? How might these portraits be different if they were in colour? How might some of the colour pictures be different if they were in black and white?

Write three things you notice in one of the black and white pictures:

What colour(s) would one of these things be, if the picture was in colour:

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A Role Model

Pick a girl or woman who is important to you – your mother, an aunt, a sister, a friend? Write their name here:

Write three things that are great about them:

Can you find a portrait in the exhibition that shows some of these same great things or qualities?

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What were they thinking?

Choose one of the portraits in the exhibition and ask yourself – what might this person have been thinking about when the photo was taken?

Write it down or ask someone you're with to write it for you.

Finding similarities

Now that you have seen all photographs in the exhibition. What do you think all the people in the exhibition have in common?

Can you find five words that could describe something in common between all the portraits:

Thank you for coming to the exhibition and I hope you enjoyed looking at my work.

If you are interested in taking more portraits in the future, here is a my advice for you:

“The best thing a young photographer can do is stay close to home. Start with your friends and family. Discover what it means to be close to your work, to be intimate with a subject.”

Annie Leibovitz

Annie Leibovitz with her children, Sarah, Susan and Samuelle, Rhinebeck, New York, 2015

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