

## DIY GUIDE: **Collaborative Portraits**



In early portraiture traditions, there was always a collaboration between the artist and the patron. A patron is someone who gives financial or other support to a person, organisation or a cause.

In the case of art, a patron is the one who pays for the work to be made. When powerful patrons, such as royalty, had their portraits made, they could also have a big say in how they wanted to be represented.

## **Make your own collaborative portrait!**

### **For this project, you will need:**

- A partner ( a friend or family member)
- Basic art supplies
- Notebook and pen
- A clean and open space to work
- Props and accessories (optional)

### **Step 1: Assign roles**

First talk to your partner and decide who plays the role of the painter and that of the patron. Once you have decided, address each other by those words until the end of your project!

## Step 2: What goes in?

Next, the patron guides the painter on how they want their portrait to be made. Together, pick what you want to highlight – any special hobbies or skills? A proud possession? A landmark life event?

## Step 3: Put on your thinking hat!

Note your discussed highlights down on the notepad. Now against each highlight, the painter adds ideas on how to visualise them. For example, if the patron likes music, what can hint that quality?

## Step 4: Studio setup

Armed with all your notes, the next step is to set the stage. For this, go to an empty, clean space and prepare it. You can use curtains or rugs to add a background, use accessories from your notes wherever needed. If you do not have all these items handy, it is the painter's job to imagine and add those to the final work.

## Step 5: The actual making

Now the patron decides a pose that best suits them and positions themselves on the set, while the painter begins to draw. Remember you might need to hold this position for long periods, so either pick a pose you can easily assume or make sure you have furniture to support you (like a table to rest your elbow on or a sofa to lean across).

If the painter thinks this will take longer, try keeping the set intact and doing this across a few days. On Day One, you can focus on a rough layout, on Day Two you can go in for the outlines, and so on till you have the collaborative portrait ready! The patron may even choose to provide some feedback after seeing early sketches.

**Bonus:** Once done, try reversing your roles and having another go at the second portrait. You can even frame both side by side at the end!



Don't forget to take photographs of your creations and DM it to us on Instagram @mapbangalore. You can also email them to us at [education@map-india.org](mailto:education@map-india.org)