FAMILY ACTIVITY!

PHOTOGRAPHIC PORTRAITS

CIPX Dartmouth with Kali Spitzer and Will Wilson

This activity card is recommended for children 6-12 and adults to use together while looking at, thinking about, and talking about art in this exhibition.

Portraits often feature an image of a person, including the face, and they sometimes give us clues about the portrait sitter’s interests and personality.

You can tell a lot about a person just by looking at their pose, facial expression, clothing, and setting, and the objects included in a portrait. You may have photographs of yourself that tell something about you.

What is a tintype?

Native American artists Will Wilson (Diné) and Kali Spitzer (Kaska Dena) use a special technique to make a tintype photograph. A tintype is made by using a thin sheet of metal and coating it with a dark lacquer (a thick, sticky paint). They develop the photographs in complete darkness using chemicals.
In this exhibition, Will and Kali photographed people from Dartmouth and the local community. Pick your favorite portrait.

What do you notice about the . . .

Pose? _______________________________________________

Facial Expression? ____________________________________

Clothing? ___________________________________________

Setting? _____________________________________________

Objects? _____________________________________________

What might your observations suggest about the person in the portrait?

Have you ever heard the expression “don’t judge a book by its cover”? It reminds us not to judge something just by the way it looks. We can learn a lot about a person from a photograph of them, but not everything! CIPX artists Will and Kali want the people in their portraits to tell their own stories about themselves. Each person featured in a photograph in this gallery wrote the label next to their photograph.

If an adult you are with has a phone, you can download the “Talking Tintypes” app to watch people in some of the portraits speak for themselves.

Images: Will Wilson, born 1969, Diné (Navajo), Jami Powell (detail), Citizen of the Osage Nation, wet plate collodion scan. © Will Wilson