

# BE THE ARTIST

## Amy Sherald and Mixed Media Portraits



Explore and honor the art of Amy Sherald, the painter of Michelle Obama's official portrait. Sherald's subjects are usually ordinary black people she sees during her daily errands or sitting in a local cafe; she usually knows right away that she wants to paint a person and asks them for their email so she can contact them. When painting her subjects, she paints their skin in grayscale shades. She dresses her subjects in outfits that add an element of fantasy to the final paintings. Amy collaborates with her sister to name her paintings, often using lines from poetry.

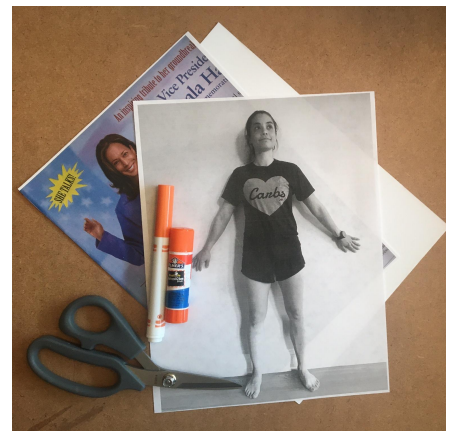
To learn more about Amy Sherald, watch this video from The Columbus Museum:

<https://bit.ly/3c75JAI>

Create a mixed media portrait in the style of Amy Sherald.

### Supplies

- magazine photos of clothing you like
- a photograph of yourself, or someone you know
- black and white copies of the photograph
- glue stick
- scissors
- pens and/or pencils in different colors
- cardboard or heavy sheet of paper (card stock is a good choice)



### Instructions

- Cut photos, or make copies, of clothing you like from magazines.
- Take a photograph of your subject in a pose that will look good with the clothing you have cut.
- Make a black and white copy of your subject's photograph.
- Cut the black and white copy of the person close to the body.
- Color the background of your piece of paper. The backgrounds of Amy Sherald's portraits are simple and monochromatic (one color group), which makes the portraits timeless.



- Glue your black and white figure on the paper.
- Glue the colorful clothing on the figure.
- If your figure doesn't fit the shape of clothing, cut the clothing out then fit the body to it. You can do this by tracing the clothing where it would be on the neck, arms, and legs. Trace the edge of the garment on the body part. Repeat until you have the body fitted to the garment. It might look a little wacky, but it's fun .
- Add stuffed animals, hats, or other props to your collage.

*Send a photo of your project to [mycreation@skokielibrary.info](mailto:mycreation@skokielibrary.info) and we may feature it on social media.*