

# COURT PORTRAIT





# COURT PORTRAIT MY PORTRAIT!

GALLERIA  
PALATINA

## ◆ It's time for English at the Galleria Palatina

### Notes for teachers

The activity entitled "Court Portrait-My Portrait!" is based on an original idea of the former Sezione Didattica del Polo Museale Fiorentino (now Dipartimento Scuola e Giovani delle Gallerie degli Uffizi) intended for young ESL speakers of primary and secondary levels.

The Education Department have devised three units with a series of worksheets for "Court Portrait - My Portrait!". Each unit corresponds to a different level of difficulty. Unit 1 and Unit 2 focus on some portraits of the Uffizi



Gallery, while in Unit 3 herewith you will work on some portraits of the Galleria Palatina in Palazzo Pitti.

Unit 1 was intended to introduce pupils to the reading of a portrait painting in English, enriched with new vocabulary. Units 2 and 3 reach more deeply into the language structures and historical notions and have slightly more difficult activities.

Each of the work sheets contains pictures of the portraits selected, a short description of the painting and a few activities to check understanding and use of new words.

Teachers are encouraged to use the Preparatory Activities before approaching the three Units . As for vocabulary, allow students to freely use the “flash cards”, which are also provided. They come in colour: red for nouns, green for verbs, pink for adjectives, yellow for prepositions and adverbs and, finally, blue for personal pronouns.

Enjoy!

*Jennifer Celani*



Frans Pourbus, *Ritratto di Maria de' Medici*, 1613, olio su tela

## Unit 3



Here we are at Palazzo Pitti, the royal residence of the grand dukes of Tuscany. Enter the palace and reach the splendid rooms of the Galleria Palatina. You will see kings and queens, noblemen and ladies, cardinals and writers.

With your teacher's help, try to describe the people you will meet.



## ◆ Unit 3 - Worksheet 1



### Raffaello Sanzio, *Portrait of Pope Leo X and two cardinals*

This painting, once in the Uffizi, is now in the Galleria Palatina.

This is a famous portrait of Pope Leo X of the Medici family. He's sitting in a chair covered with velvet. His clothes are rich and heavy: red is all over!

He's reading a book full of beautiful illustrations with a lens. There is also a little bell to use when he needs something.

The other two men in this picture are cardinals and relatives of the Pope. When you see this portrait in the museum, look for a little window....How clever the artist is!



## ◆ Unit 3 - Worksheet 1

For a start...A very simple activity!

*Complete the sentences with the words below (be careful: some are not useful!)*

Leo X is a \_\_\_\_\_ of the Medici \_\_\_\_\_.

His clothes and chair are \_\_\_\_\_. He needs a \_\_\_\_\_ to read the book on the table. When he needs something, he rings his \_\_\_\_\_. Behind Leo there are two \_\_\_\_\_. If you look closely at the painting, you can find a little \_\_\_\_\_.

This group portrait is \_\_\_\_\_ the famous artist, \_\_\_\_\_.

box	bell	pope	window	Raffaello
family		cardinals		red
Tiziano		friends		green
lens	Leonardo			by

## ◆ Unit 3 - Worksheet 2



### Tiziano, *Philip II of Spain*

This portrait was painted around 1550, when the king of Spain was travelling through Italy. He is 23 years old here and is proudly wearing his royal outfit and the medal of the Order of the Golden Fleece (Ordine del Toson d'Oro). This Collar Order was the most prestigious in Europe and had been founded in 1430 by the Duke of Burgundy, Philip the Good. In 1560, this painting was given to Grand Duke Cosimo I by the artist himself, as a gift.

Now, try to describe King Philip with the help of your "flash-cards":

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## ◆ Unit 3 - Worksheet 3



### Justus Suttermans, *Valdemar Christian of Denmark*

Valdemar Christian, heir to the throne of Denmark, was only 17 years old when this portrait was painted by court artist Justus Suttermans, while the prince was travelling through Florence in 1638 and was a guest of the Medici Grand Duke.

Unfortunately, Christian never became king, as he died in war in 1656.

Look at the sash across his armour with the colours of Denmark, blue and white. Now, describe his looks and his clothes:

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## ◆ Unit 3 - Worksheet 4



### Raffaello Sanzio, *Portrait of Julius II*

The portrait of Pope Julius II is an oil painting of 1511–12 by the Italian High Renaissance painter Raphael.

The portrait of Pope Julius II was unusual for its time and would carry a long influence on papal portraiture. Giorgio Vasari, writing long after Julius' death, said that "it was so lifelike and true it frightened everyone who saw it, as if it were the living man himself". Previous Papal portraits showed them frontally, or kneeling in profile. It was also "exceptional" at this period to show the sitter so evidently in a particular mood – here lost in thought. The intimacy of this image was unprecedented in Papal portraiture, but became the model followed by many future painters, including Sebastiano del Piombo and Diego Velázquez.

The painting can be dated to between June 1511 and March 1512, when Julius let his beard grow as a sign of mourning for the loss in war of the city of Bologna.

How does Pope Julius II look to you? What else can you say about this portrait?

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## ◆ Unit 3 - Worksheet 5



### Peter Paul Rubens, *Four Philosophers*

This group shows four portraits: the artist himself is standing to the left; next to him, sitting, is his brother Philip; the man with the fur and a beard is their teacher, Justus Lipsius, and the

man in profile is a scholar we do not know. All four men were friends and shared the same interests in philosophy and literature. You can see many objects and a nice dog: these are symbols. For example, of the four tulips, two are closed to

mean the two living friends, while two are withered to mean the two dead friends.

With the help of your teacher, try to guess the meaning of the other symbols and describe the painting:

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## ◆ Unit 3 - Worksheet 6



### Tiberio Titi, *Cardinal Leopoldo de' Medici as a baby*

Leopoldo was the eighth child of Grand Duke Cosimo II and Maria Maddalena of Austria. When he grew up, he became cardinal; he also became one of the most famous collectors of the Medici artworks we can admire today, for he loved beautiful things very much.

This portrait shows Leopoldo the day he was born: 6 November 1617 (this is written on the painting). His parents were very proud because, as you can see, he was a healthy, lovely baby!

Everything shows he was a little prince: the soft pillow and the velvet bed cover.

Now describe the lovely blanket and the way he looks to you:

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## ◆ Unit 3 - Worksheet 7



### Raffaello Sanzio, *La Velata*

For many years people thought this beautiful woman was Raffaello's girlfriend; actually, the fact that she's wearing a white veil over her head, indicates that she's a married woman. So, this is probably the portrait of the wife of a nobleman from Rome, where it was painted around 1515. But we don't know who she really is.

Raffaello was the greatest of all painters: look at the care in showing the lady's silk sleeve and her shirt. They are all in tones of white and golden yellow. Find the detail you like the best and say why:

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## ◆ Unit 3 - Worksheet 8



### Tiziano, *Portrait of a Man with Gray Eyes*

We really do not know who the handsome sitter is: some people say it could be the Duke of Norfolk; so often this is called "Portrait of an English Gentleman".

This man in black is known as "The Man with Grey Eyes" and is mysterious also because his glance is icy.

Notice the shadow on the wall and the skin of his hand: Tiziano loved to paint things the way they were in reality.

What do you know about this man from this portrait? Look very carefully...

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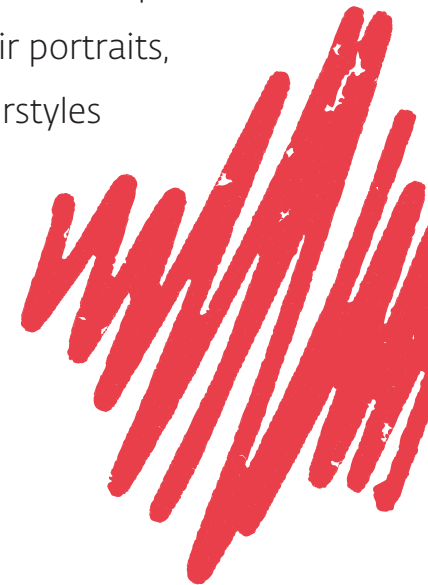
## ◆ Unit 3 - Worksheet 9



### Frans Pourbus, Portrait of Maria de' Medici

Maria de' Medici (26 April 1575 – 3 July 1642) was Queen of France as the second wife of King Henry IV of France, of the House of Bourbon. She was a member of the wealthy and powerful House of Medici. She was born at the Palazzo Pitti of Florence, the sixth daughter of Francesco I de' Medici, Grand Duke of Tuscany, and Archduchess Joanna of Austria. Maria was one of seven children, but only she and her sister Eleonora survived to adulthood.

This portrait of Maria by Frans Pourbus the Younger (1611), shows her with regular features and a high forehead. Her wavy hair was light brown and she had honey-brown eyes and fair skin. Maria loved wearing jewelled dresses and the peculiar cloak collar and high ruff, which seem to frame her face. In their portraits, wealthy women and girls are usually shown with elaborate hairstyles and wearing beautiful jewels. How does Maria look to you? What else can you say about this portrait? What peculiar symbols can you see embroidered on her dress?



## ◆ Unit 3 - Worksheet 10



### *Raffaello, Portrait of Tommaso "Fedra" Inghirami*

Tommaso Inghirami loved literature, was an actor and worked as the librarian for Pope Leo X in the Vatican Library.

His nickname "Fedra" came from his favourite play by the Latin writer Seneca. The artist was very careful in showing Tommaso as he was in real life in the year 1510: look at his eyes, the shaved beard, and his small, roundish hands. What do you think Tommaso is looking at?

Describe what he is doing:

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## ◆ Unit 3 - Worksheet 11



### Tiziano, *Pietro l'Aretino*

Pietro Aretino was a writer and a very strong opinion leader. His glance and pose reflect his personality.

Pietro was so proud of this portrait by the great Venetian painter, Tiziano, that he sent it as a gift to the Grand Duke Cosimo I around 1546, asking him whether he liked it or not—what a show-off! In fact, the Grand Duke never replied.

Describe Pietro Aretino's clothes and expression. What fabric is his cloak made of?

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## ◆ Unit 3 - Worksheet 12



### Justus Suttermans, *Portrait of Vittoria della Rovere and Cosimo III as Holy Family*

This portrait of Vittoria della Rovere and Cosimo III as Holy Family is an allegorical portrait of the Grand-Ducal family.

Vittoria della Rovere used to like allegorical portraits of her family, where she is portrayed in many various ways and embodies different sacred characters (see Vittoria della Rovere, as St. Orsola) or virtues, with a clear aim of self-praise and vainglory.

In this allegorical portrait by Justus Suttermans (1645) we can recognize the Court tutor in the guise of St. Joseph, the Grand Duchess Vittoria in the guise of Virgin Mary and her son, the Grand Duch Cosimo III, in the guise of Baby Jesus learning to read.

In this painting Vittoria della Rovere who embodies Virgin Mary is wearing very plain clothes, without jewels, lace or embroidery. Cosimo III as Baby Jesus is portrayed with unadorned garments, too.

What else can you say about this portrait?

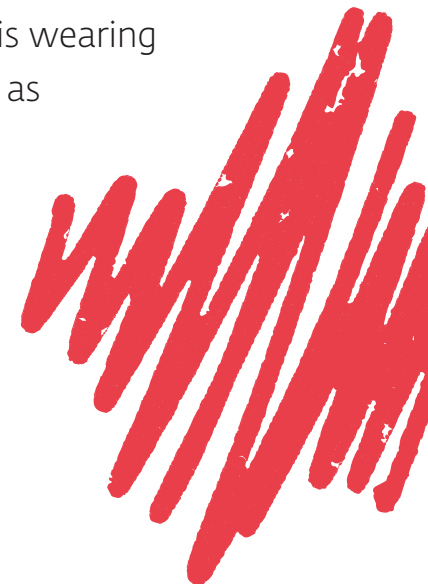
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