FRAGMENTS:

ART GCSE

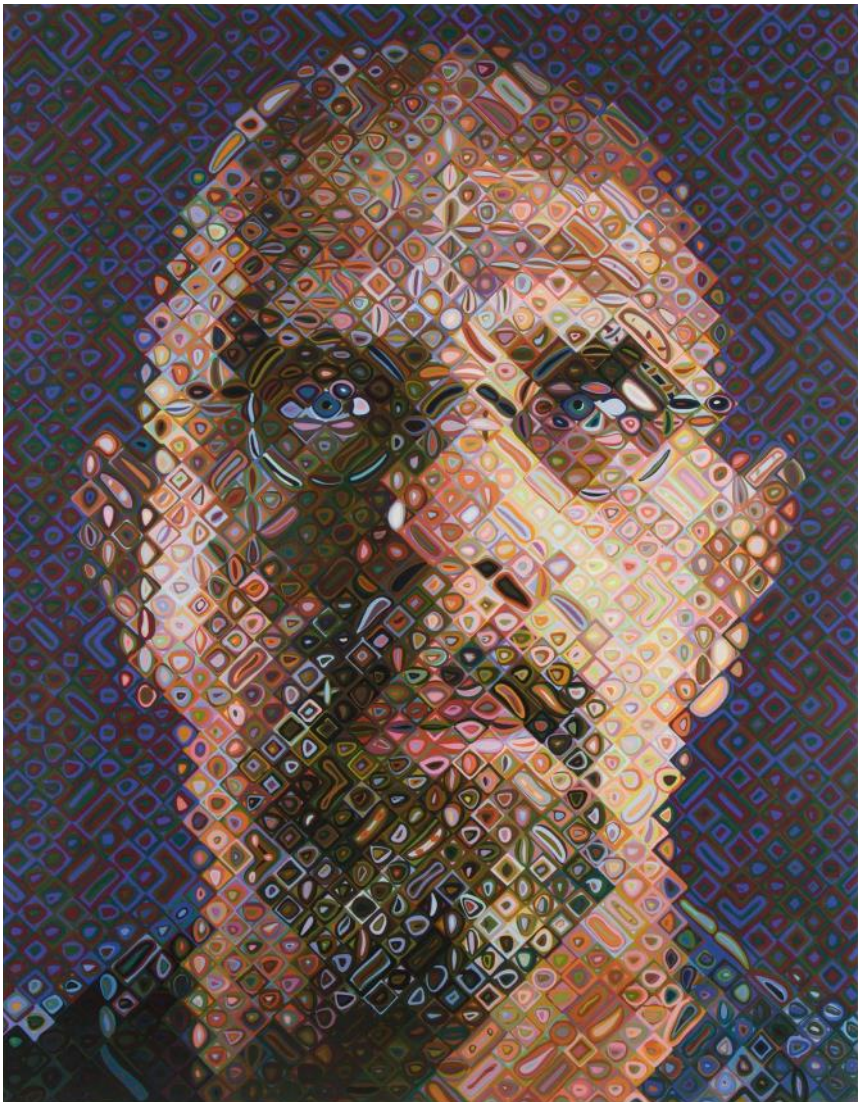
EXAM

RESOURCE

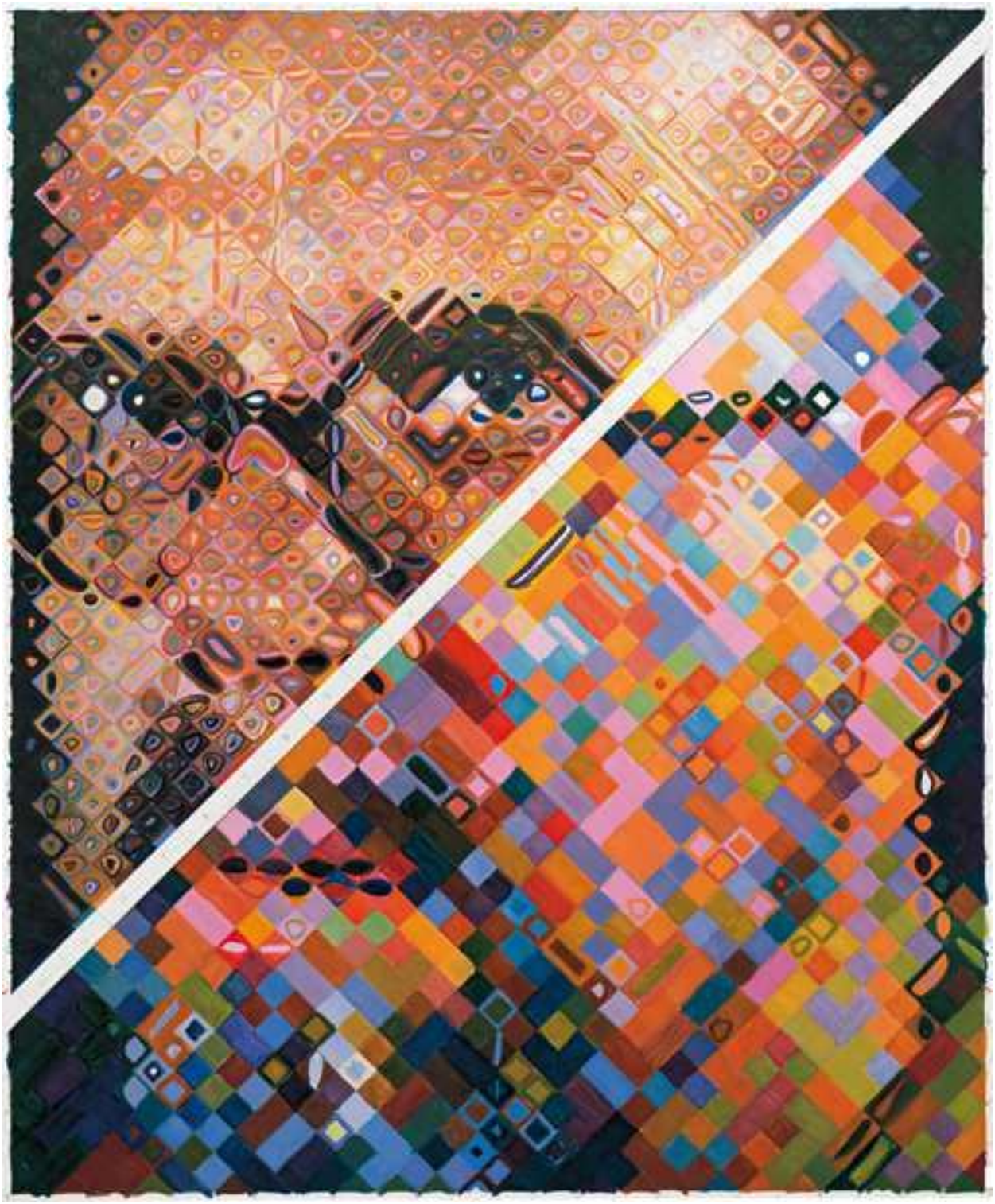
BOOKLET

2018

CHUCK CLOSE

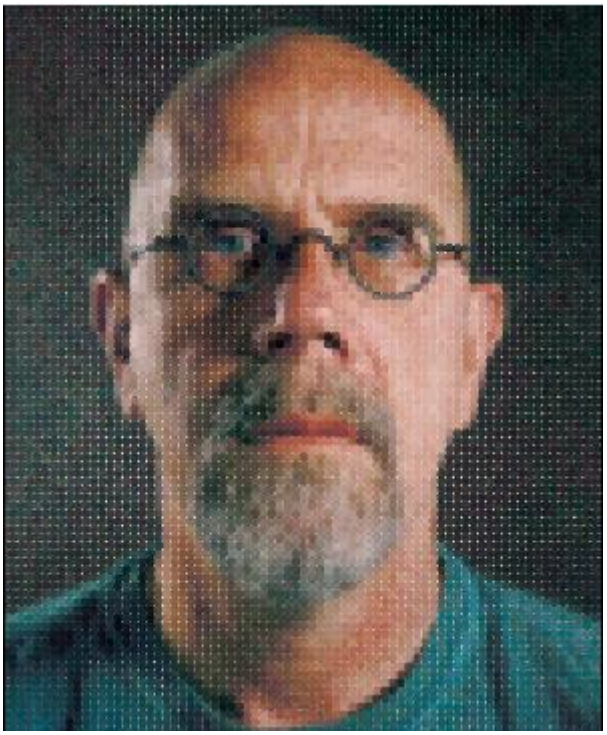


Chuck Close is globally renowned for reinvigorating the art of portrait painting from the late 1960s to the present day, an era when photography had been challenging painting's former dominance in this area, and succeeding in steadily gaining critical appreciation as an artistic medium in its own right. Close emerged from the 1970s painting movement of Photorealism, also known as Super-Realism, but then moved well beyond its initially hyper-attentive rendering of a given subject to explore how methodical, system-driven portrait painting based on photography's underlying processes (over its superficial visual appearances) could suggest a wide range of artistic and philosophical concepts. In addition, Close's personal struggles with dyslexia and subsequently, partial paralysis, have suggested real-life parallels to his professional discipline, as though his methodical and yet also quite intuitive methods of painting are inseparable from his own daily reckoning with the body's own vulnerable, material condition.



When he starts to paint a portrait he applies a background colour to each individual section of the grid. The colors that he chooses have a similar tonal value to their corresponding section on the grid. He then starts to fill each section with four or five freely painted outlines of different coloured forms. He draws these from a vocabulary of simple shapes that include squares, triangles, right-angles, doughnuts, lozenges and *'hotdogs'*. Each small section becomes an abstract colour study whose hues mix optically to create a *'visual chord'*. Years of experience have taught him how this *'chord'* will read from a distance and how it will combine with adjacent sections to form the tones and colours of the head. There is a certain irony that someone who started out creating uncompromisingly monochrome images should develop into such an outstanding colourist.

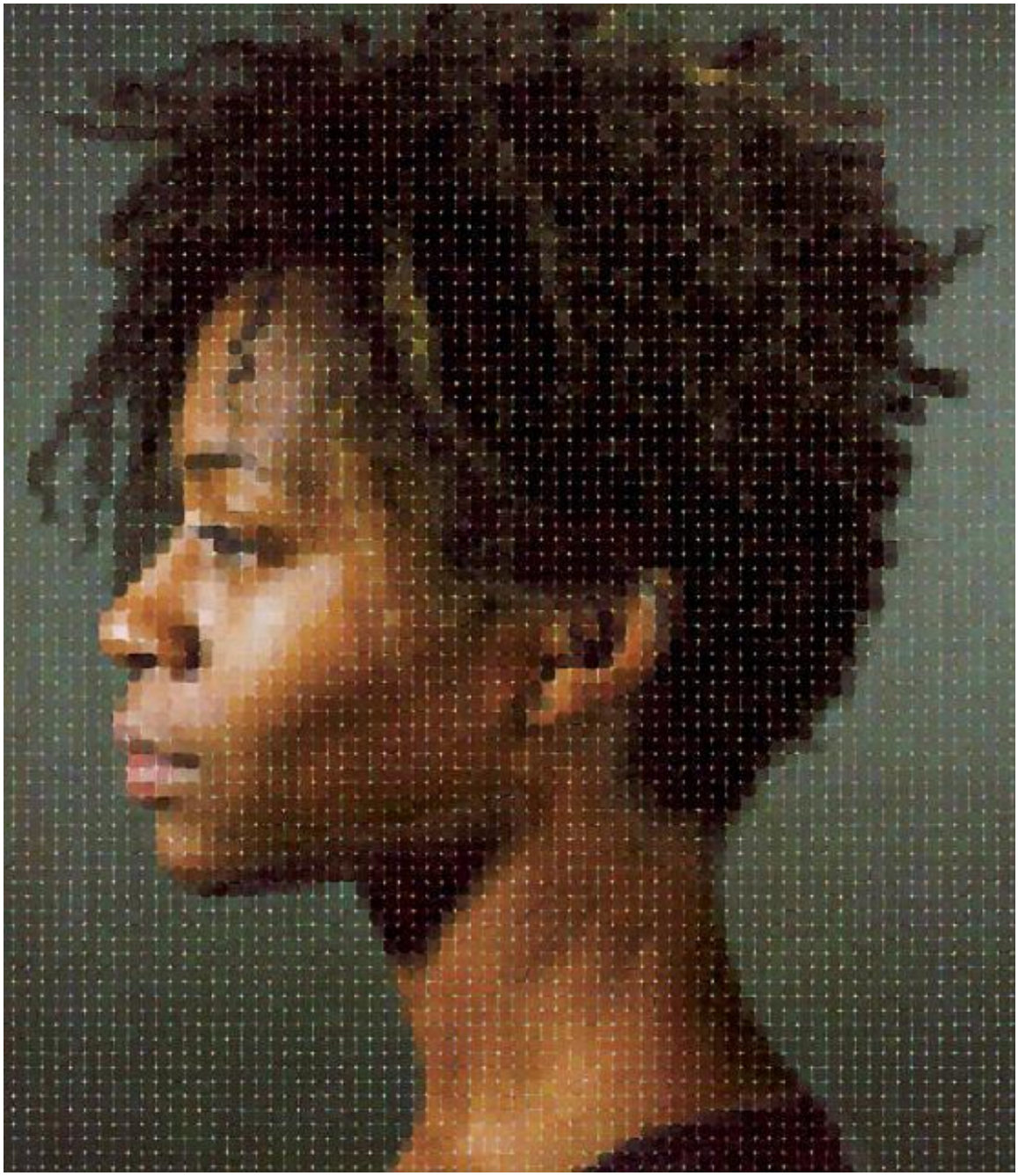
http://www.artyfactory.com/art_appreciation/portraits/chuck_close.html

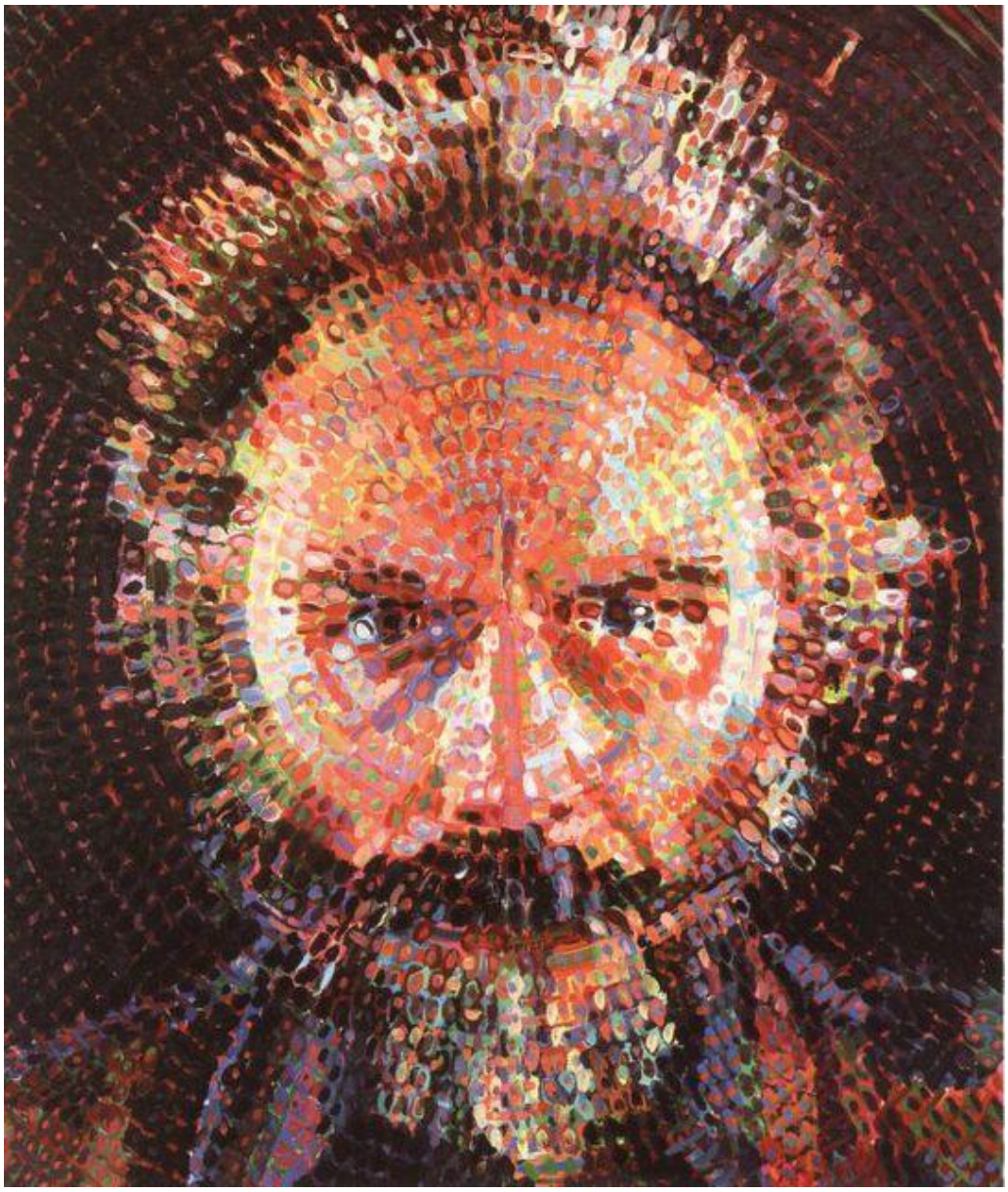


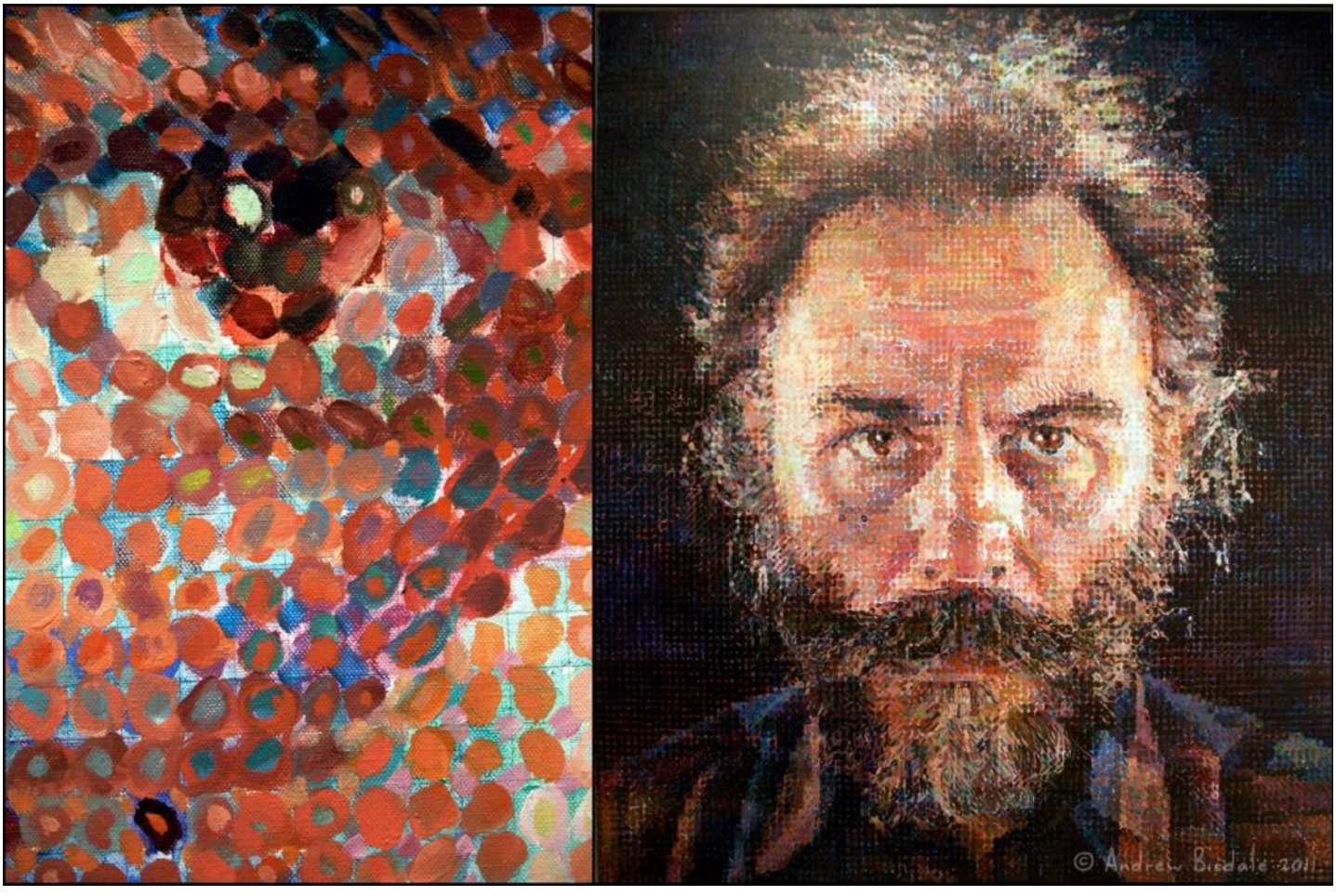
Close uses the printer in a very similar way to his traditional technique: he paints swatches of watercolours, scans them, then arranges them on the digital “canvas” to match his subject’s face. *Self Portrait*, (2012).

Then, he lays down layers of CMYK watercolour ink, repeating the process six times as the colours get more and more nuanced.

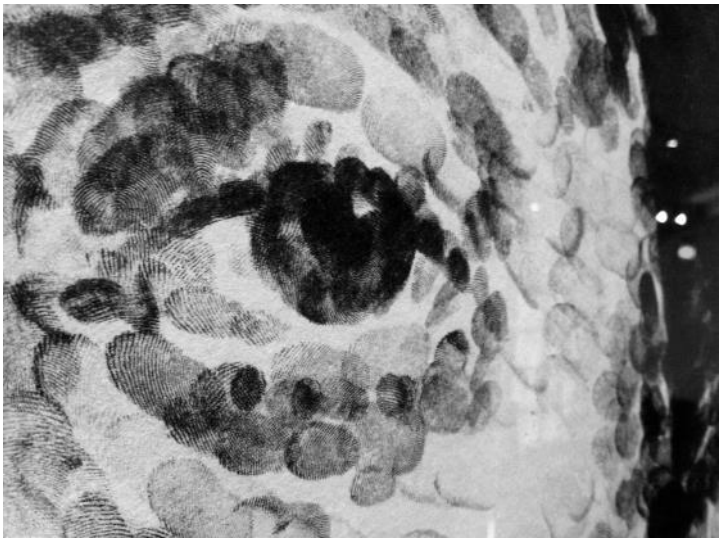
https://www.fastcodesign.com/1671037/after-decades-of-pixel-painting-chuck-close-goes-truly-digital

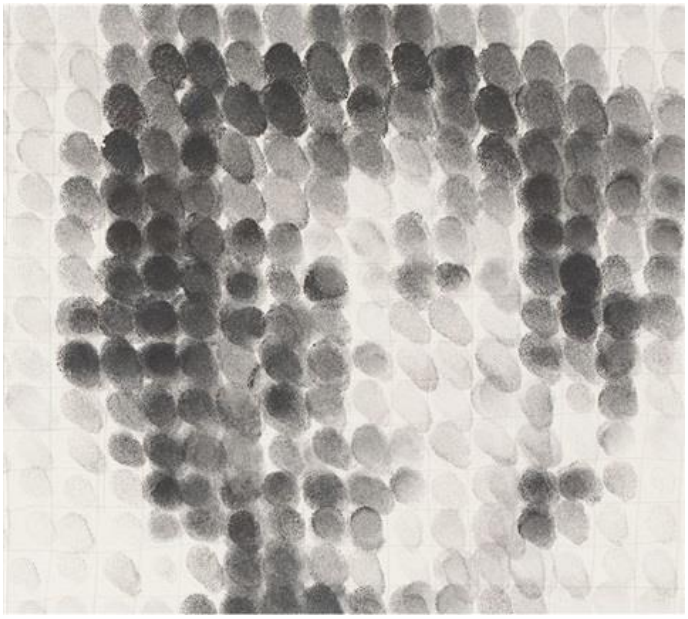




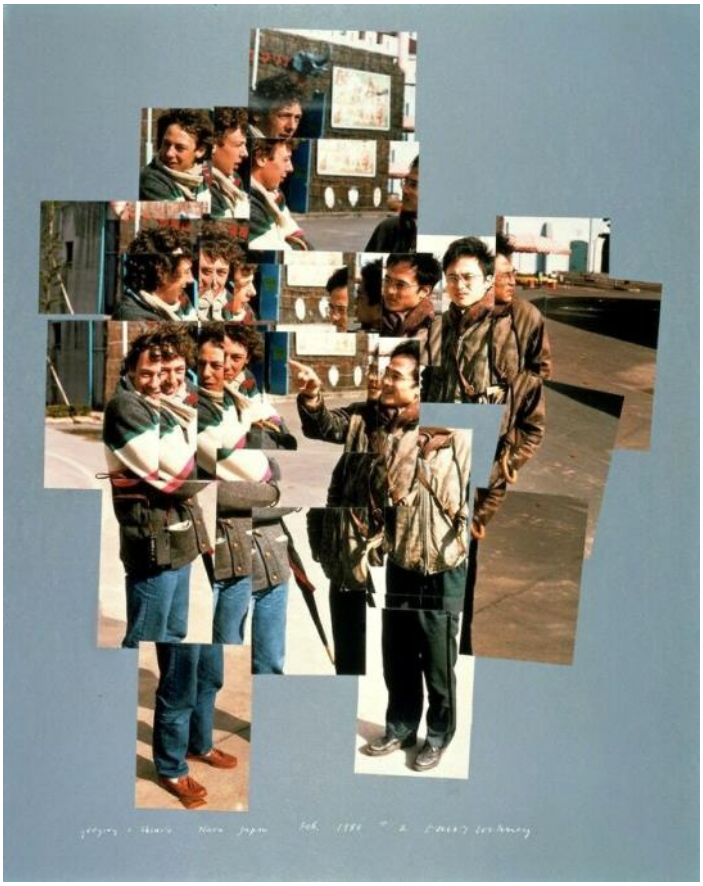

© Andrew Bisdale 2011

FINGERPRINT PAINTING





DAVID HOCKNEY



David Hockney's bright swimming pools, split-level homes and suburban Californian landscapes are a strange brew of calm and hyperactivity. Shadows appear to have been banished from his acrylic canvases of the 1960s, slick as magazine pages. Flat planes exist side-by-side in a patchwork, muddling our sense of distance. Hockney's unmistakable style incorporates a broad range of sources from Baroque to Cubism and, most recently, computer graphics. An iconoclast obsessed with the Old Masters, this British Pop artist breaks every rule deliberately, delighting in the deconstruction of proportion, linear perspective, and colour theory. He shows that orthodoxies are meant to be shattered, and that opposites can coexist, a message of tolerance that transcends art and has profound implications in the political and social realm.

In the spirit of the Cubists like Picasso, Hockney combines several scenes to create a composite view, choosing tricky spaces, like split-level homes in California and the Grand Canyon, where depth perception is already a challenge.

STOP
PEARBLOSSOM
CALIFORNIA
138
STOP
AHEAD
AHEAD
STOP

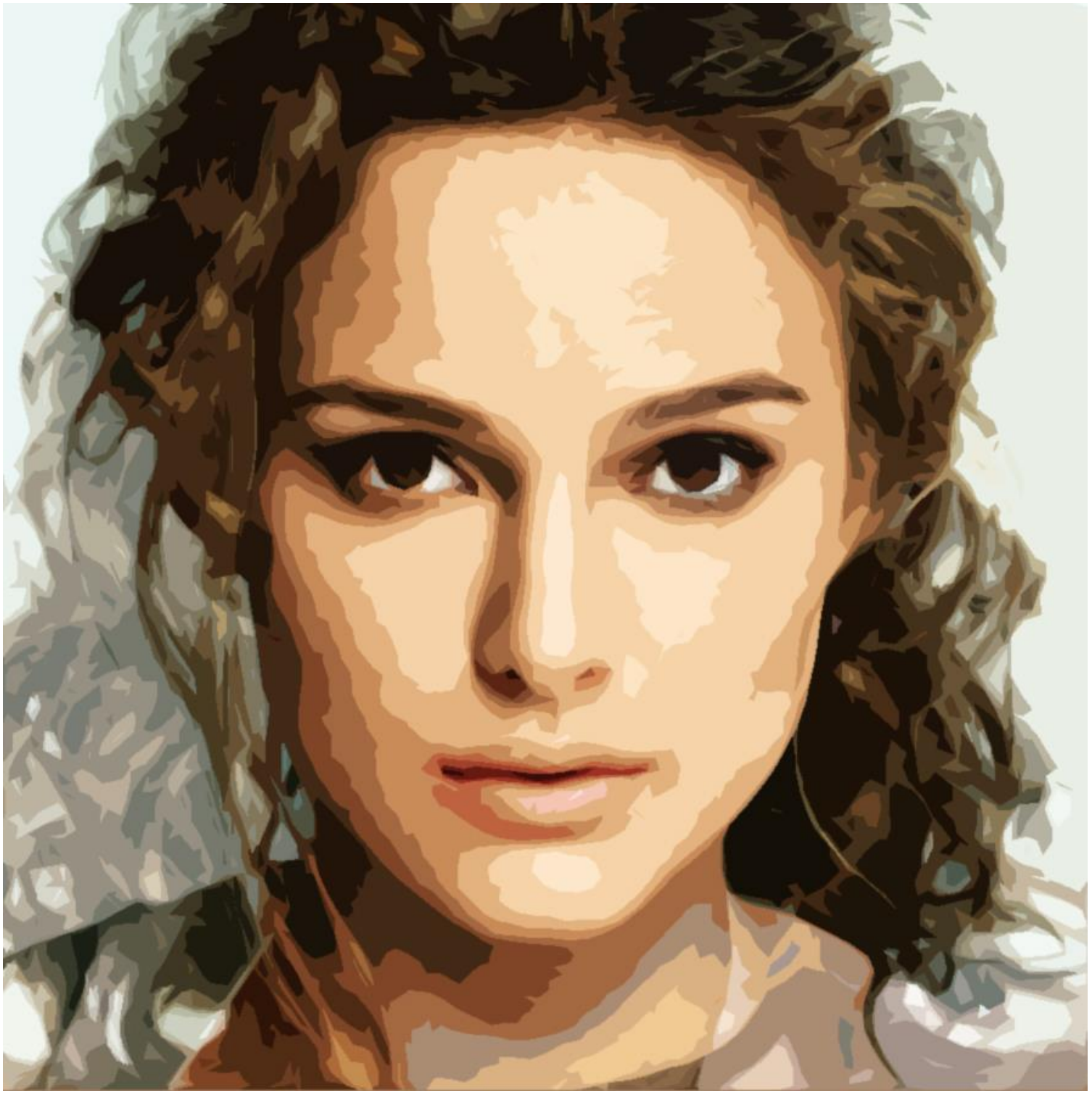
PABLO PICASSO

Pablo Picasso was the most dominant and influential artist of the first half of the twentieth century. Associated most of all with pioneering Cubism, alongside Georges Braque, he also invented collage and made major contributions to Symbolism and Surrealism. He saw himself above all as a painter, yet his sculpture was greatly influential, and he also explored areas as diverse as printmaking and ceramics. Finally, he was a famously charismatic personality; his many relationships with women not only filtered into his art but also may have directed its course, and his behaviour has come to embody that of the bohemian modern artist in the popular imagination.

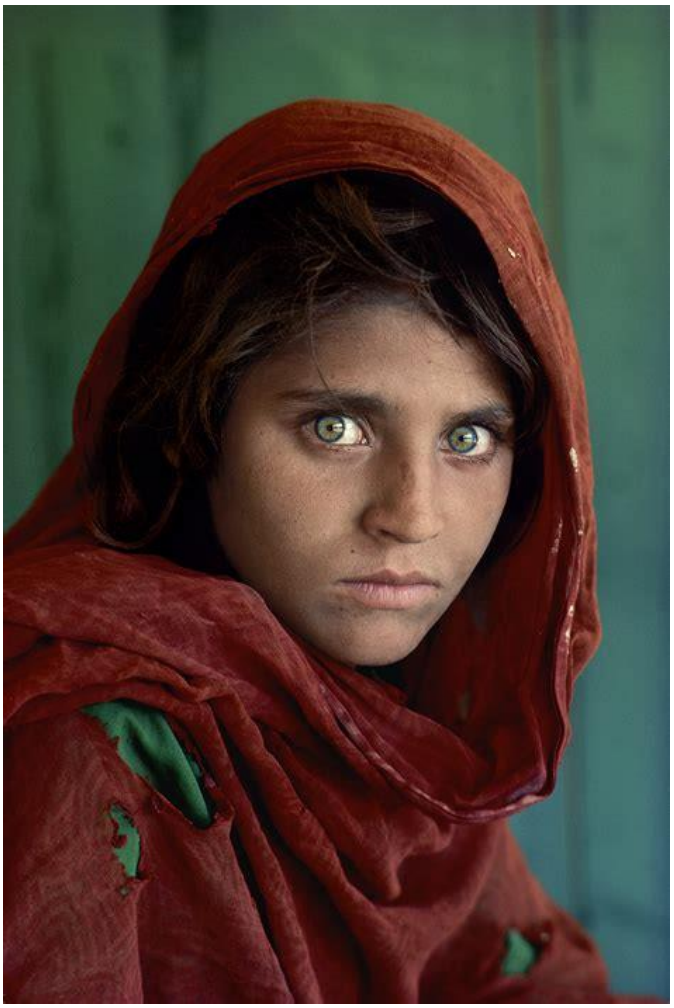
"Every act of creation is first an act of destruction."
- Pablo Picasso

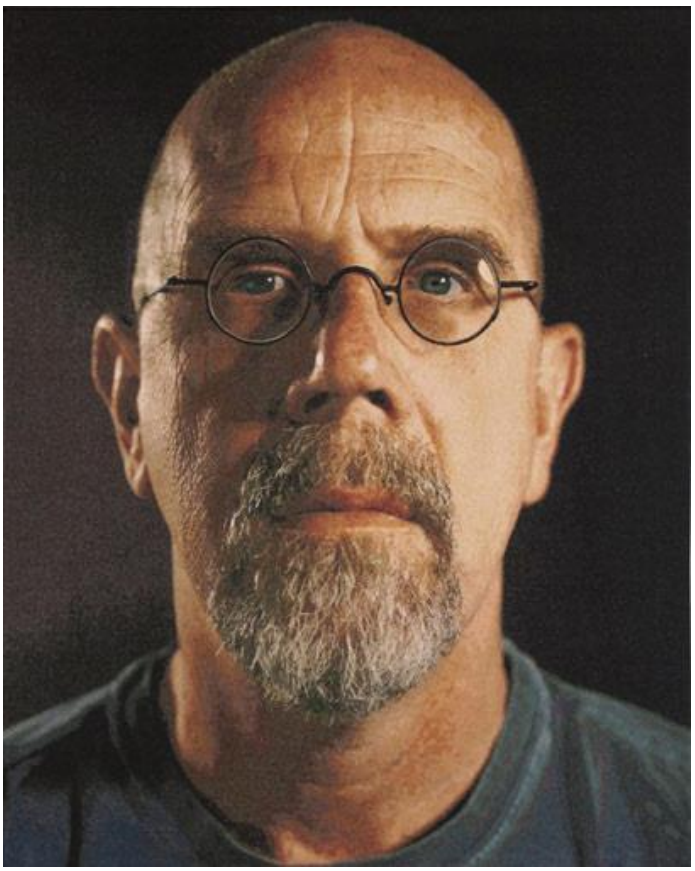
It was a confluence of influences - from Paul Cézanne and Henri Rousseau, to archaic and tribal art - that encouraged Picasso to lend his figures more structure and ultimately set him on the path towards Cubism, in which he deconstructed the conventions of perspective that had dominated painting since the Renaissance. These innovations would have far-reaching consequences for practically all of modern art, revolutionizing attitudes to the depiction of form in space.

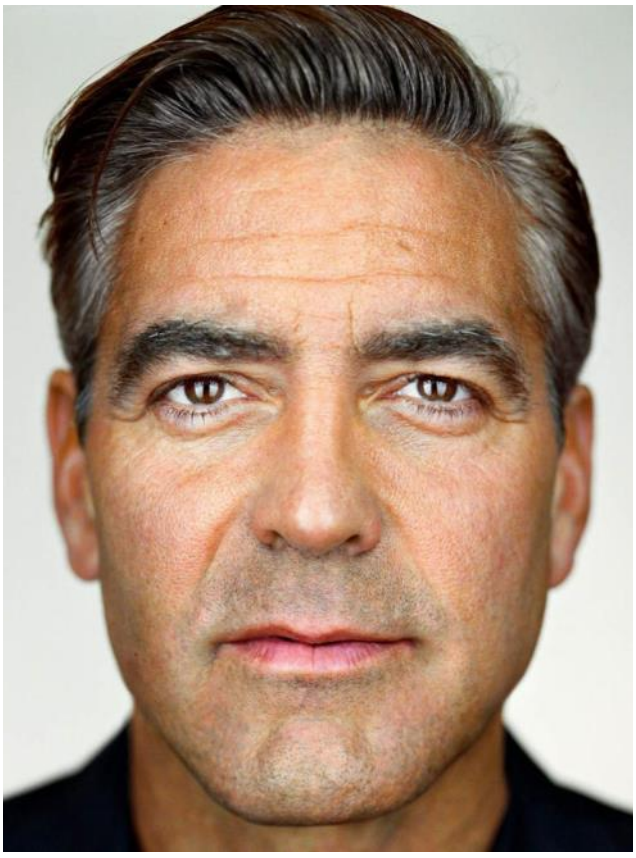
POSTERIZED PORTRAITS

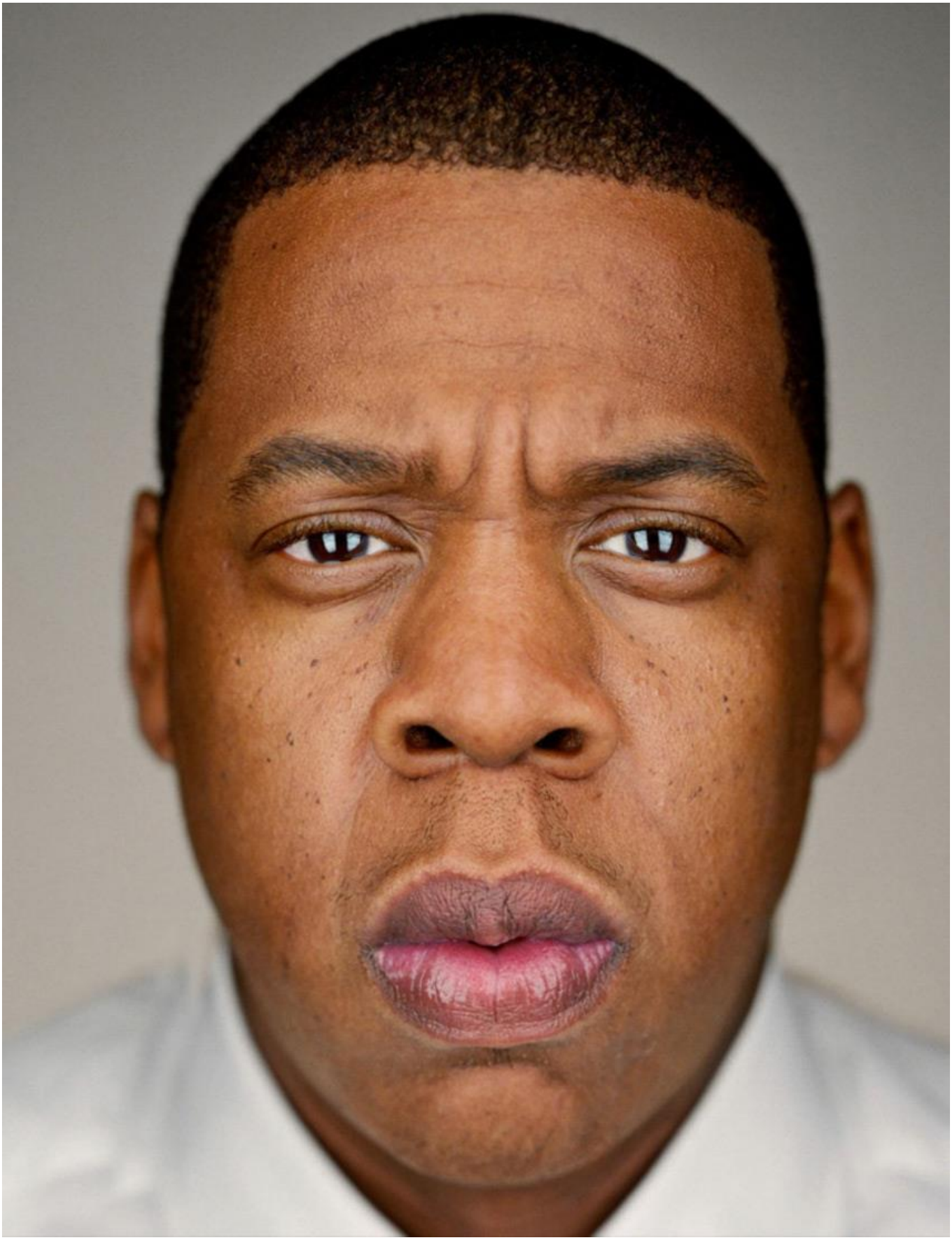


SOURCE PHOTOGRAPHS









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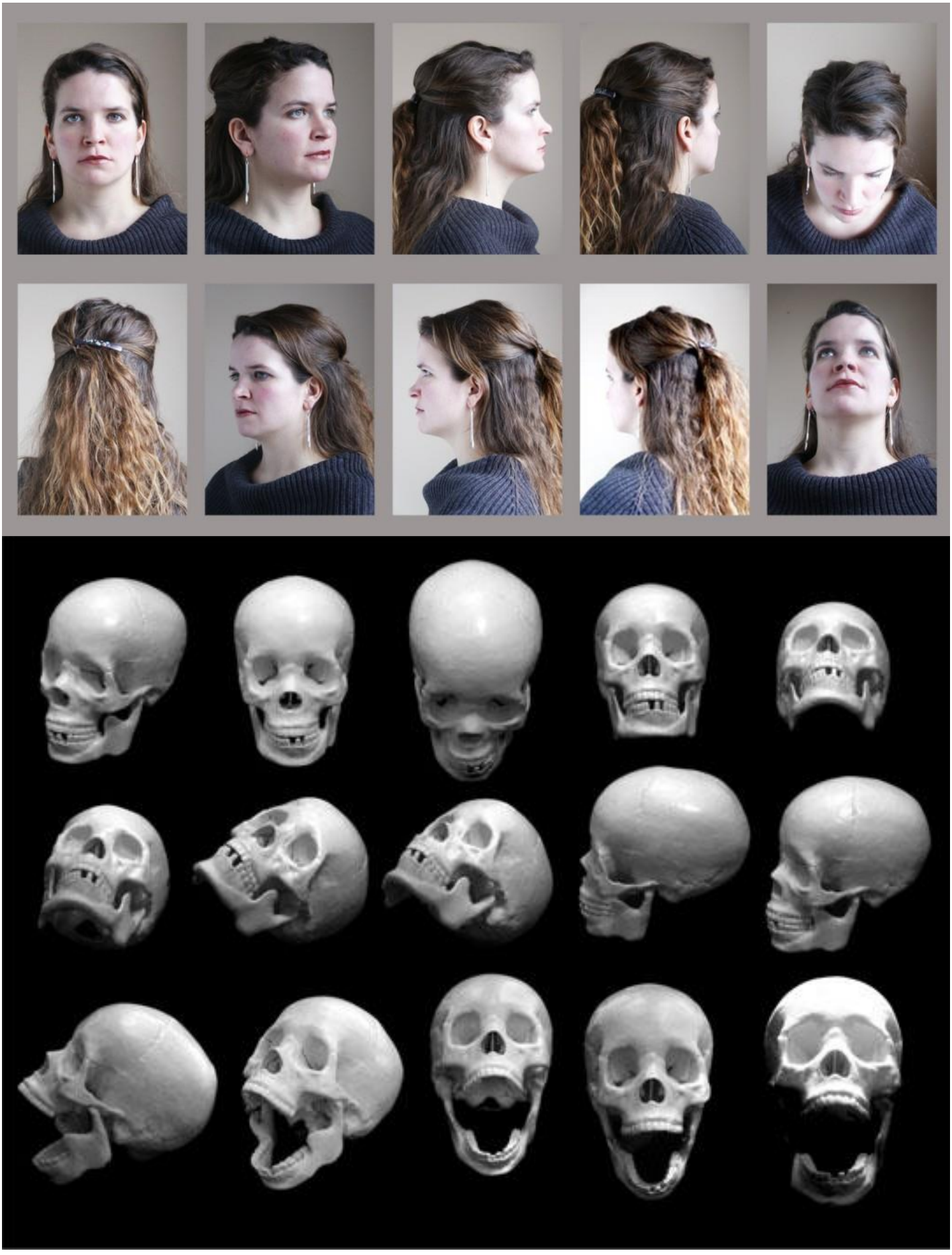
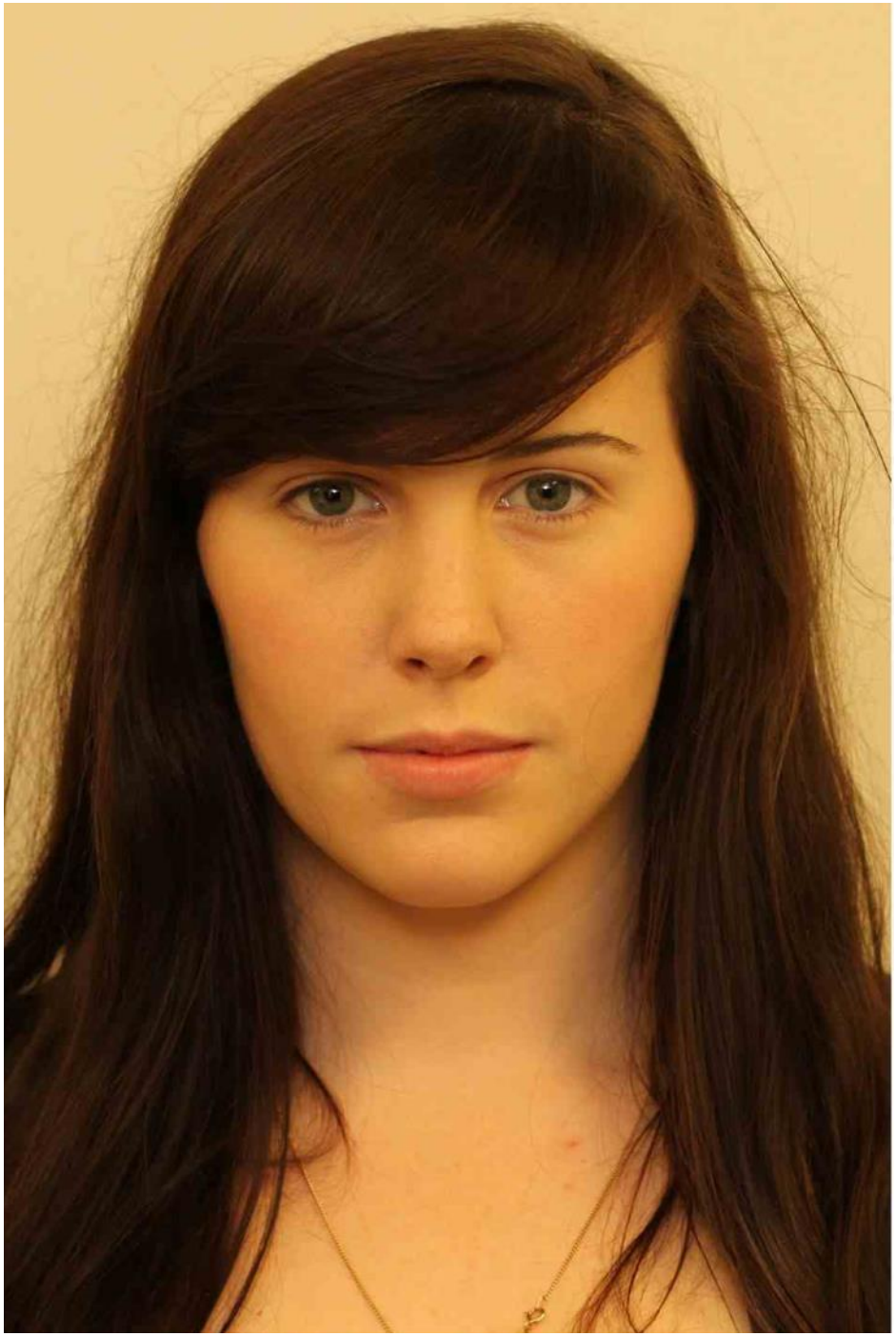
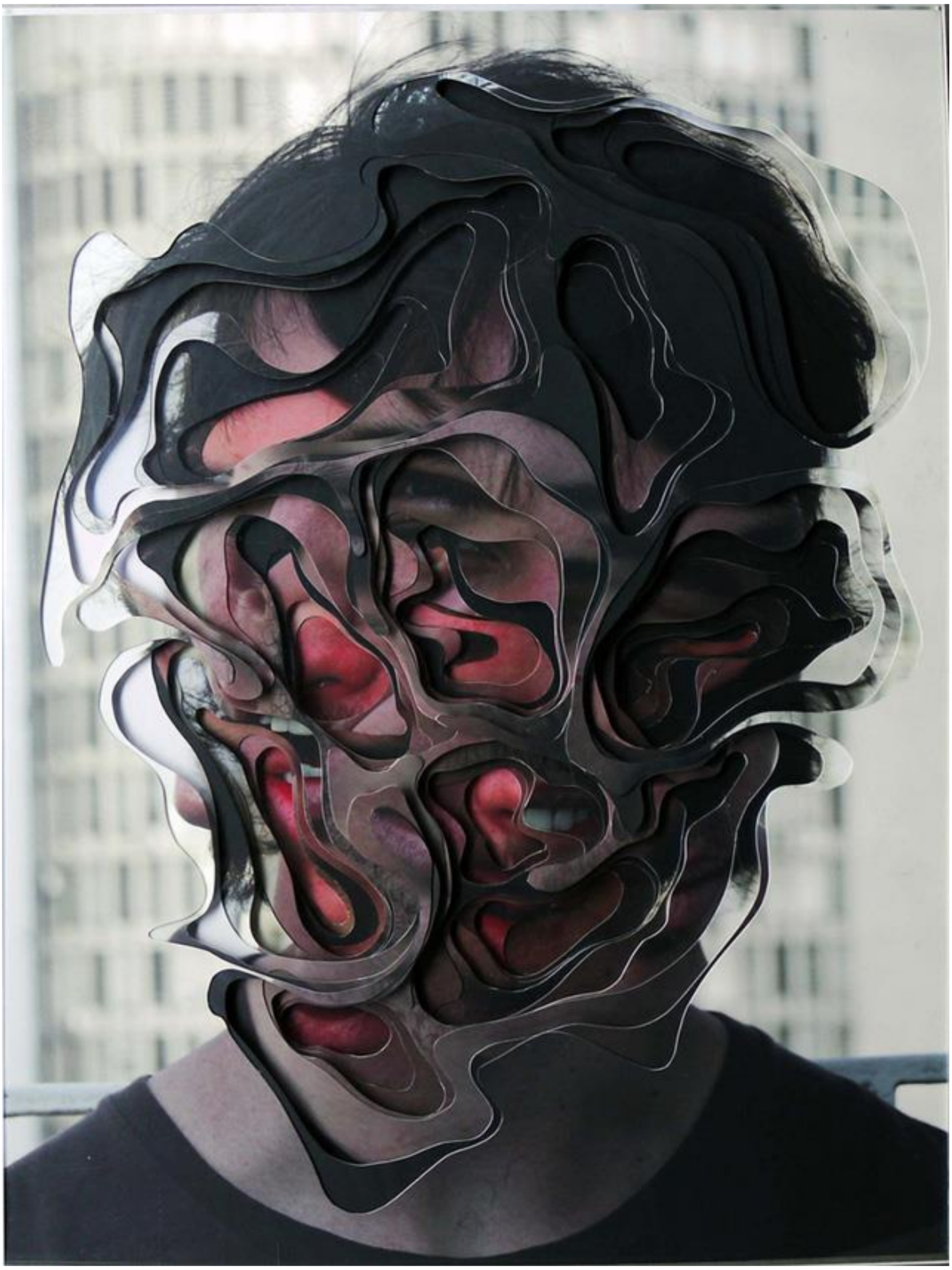
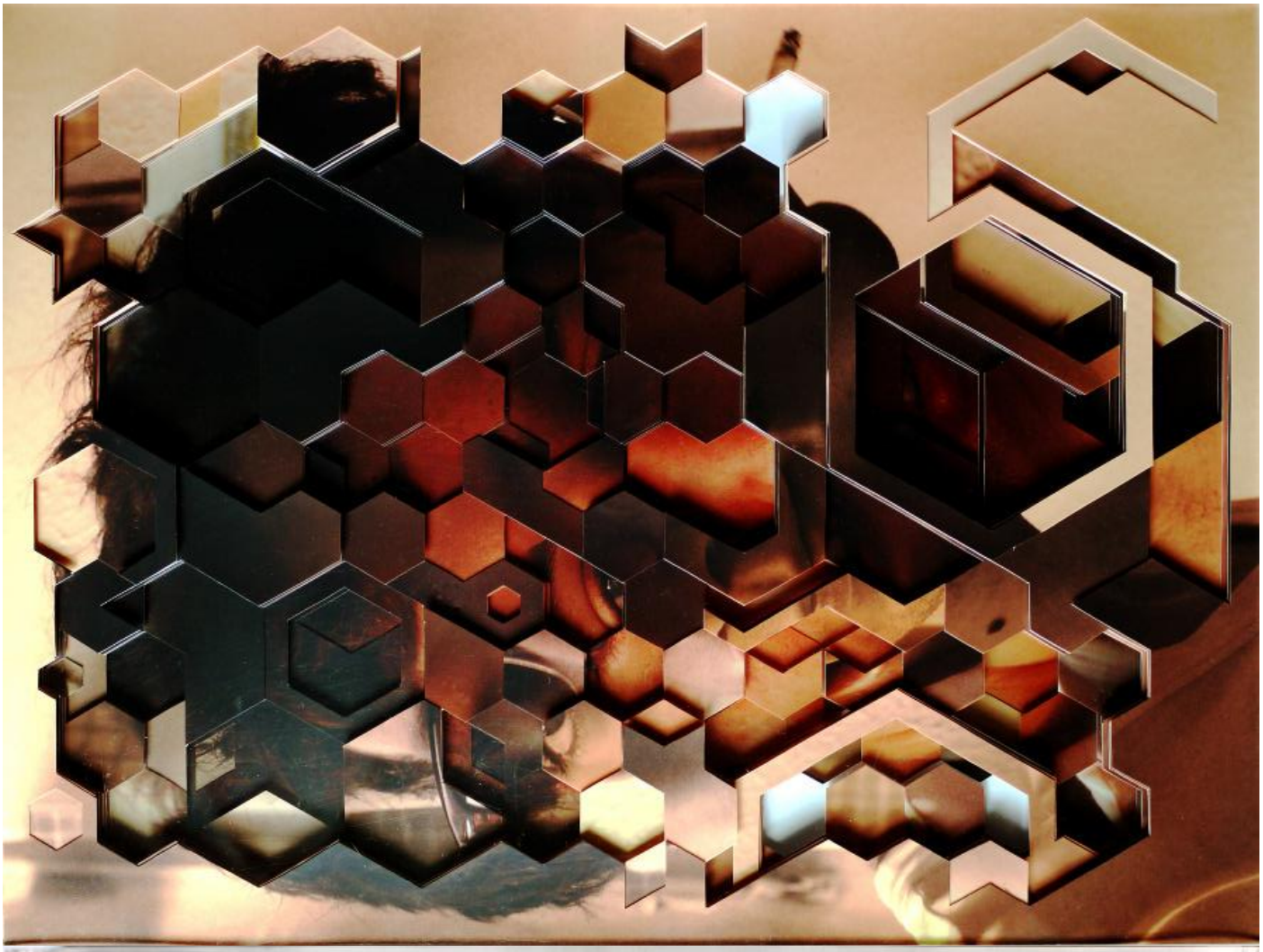
FACES FROM DIFFERENT ANGLES FOR COLLAGE/HOCKNEY INSPIRED ARTWORKS

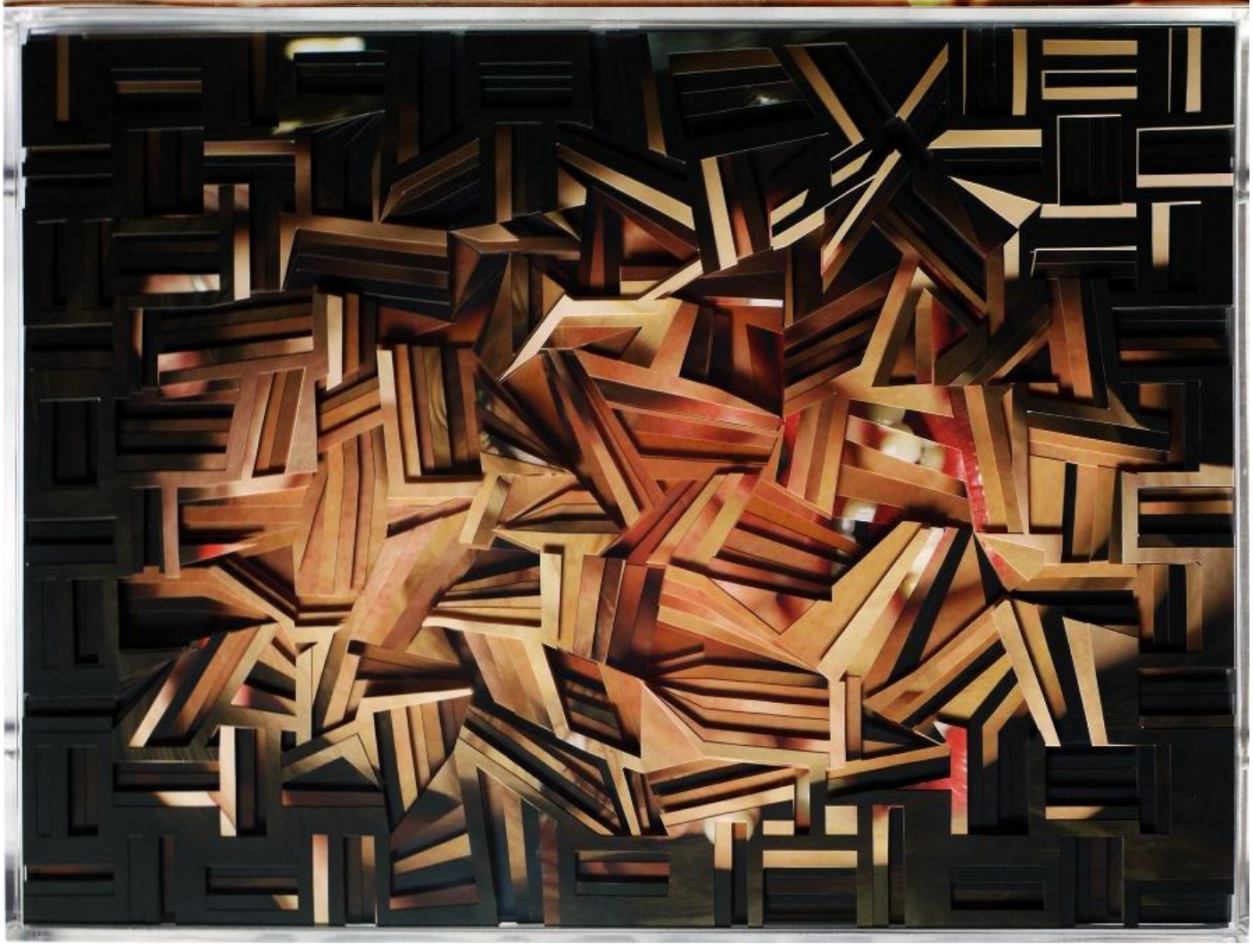




LUCAS SIMONES





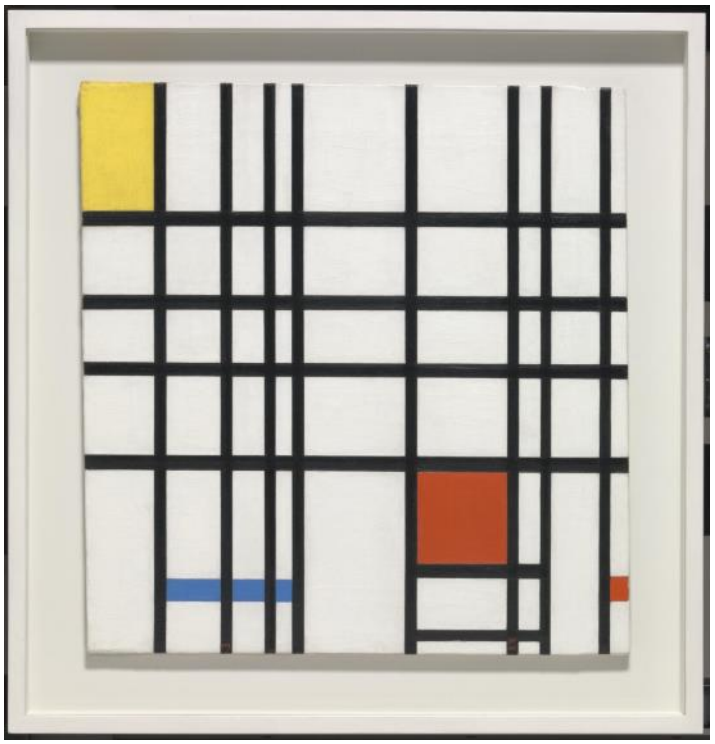


DAMIEN BLOTTIERE

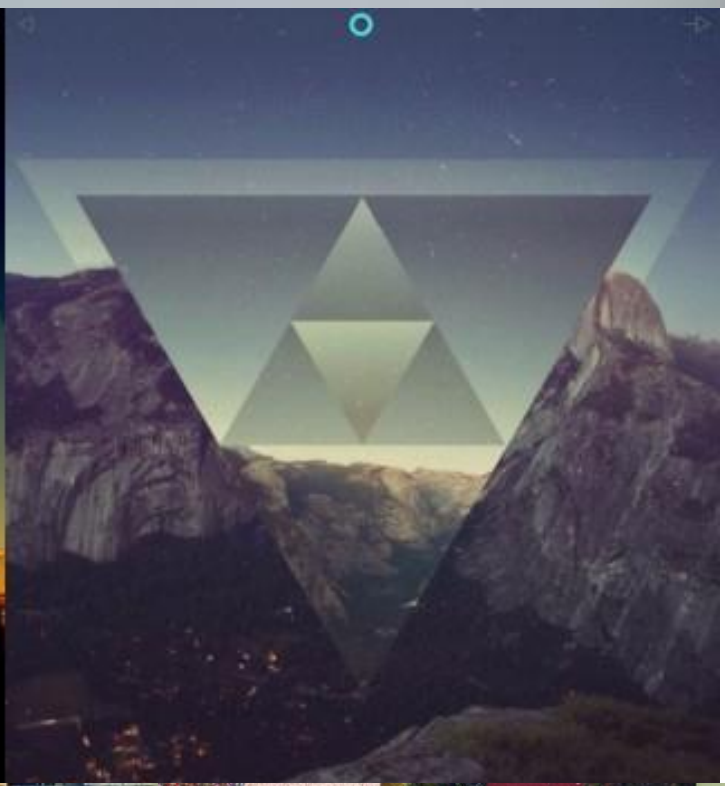
MICHAEL MURPHY

ANDREW SALGADO

PIET MONDRIAN



GARY HUME

FRANCIS BACON

MORE EXAMPLES