Portrait of Vera List by Larry Rivers

c. 1965
Paint, charcoal, wood, tape, Plexiglas, and aluminum (window) frame

The Jewish Museum: Gift of Vera G. List.
Who am I?
Portraits from The Jewish Museum

Look Closely and Discuss:

- A portrait is a picture of a person. This is a portrait of the artist’s friend, Vera. Have you ever had a portrait made of yourself? When?

- What’s going on here? Tell me what you see.

- What materials did the artist use to make this picture? Can you find paint, tape, wood and a window frame?

- Tell a story about this woman. What is she doing, thinking or feeling?

- The artist used a window to create two layers for this picture. If we could slide the window open, we could see a new image hidden underneath!

- Use your imagination—if this were your artwork, what would you have put behind the glass? What would we see if we opened the window?

Did you know?
- A portrait is a picture of a person.
- If you create a portrait of yourself, it’s called a self-portrait.
- Larry Rivers was not only an artist, but also a jazz musician! He liked to improvise, to create new types of art and music. How might he have improvised when making this portrait?
- Born in the Bronx in 1923, his given name was Yitzhok Loiza Grossberg. He changed his name to Larry Rivers in 1940, when he was introduced at a jazz club in NYC as “Larry Rivers and the Mudcats.”

Explore further:

Look at family photos
Share with your child: Who is in the photo? Is it a portrait or a snapshot? When was it taken?

Visit The Jewish Museum with your Cool Culture Family Pass
1109 Fifth Avenue at 92nd Street
(212) 423-3200 www.jewishmuseum.org
See exhibitions of art and Jewish culture, as well as the common ground shared by people of all cultural backgrounds. On Sundays: free art projects no reservation required! On Mon-Tues, Thurs-Fri, and Sunday you can visit an interactive children’s exhibition.
Draw a portrait of a friend or family member
OR
a self-portrait (a picture of yourself)!

Share:
Whom did you draw?
What does that person like to do?