STUDIO FIELDNOTES / GREAT MASTERS / 6–8

Patterns Around a Portrait | Kitagawa Utamaro

Research and sources · 6–8 · 50–65 minutes × 3–5 sessions

Context for this inquiry

Explore historic prints without generalizing Japanese identity

Teach with relevant originals

Use primary artworks, museum biographies, documentary sources or student-conducted observation. The collection cover is an original editorial graphic, not a reproduction of the artist’s work.

Starting sources

Research museum collections

https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection

Search for the artist and original works

https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?search=Kitagawa%20Utamaro&title=Special%3ASearch&ns0=1

Met Open Access image and reuse guidance

https://www.metmuseum.org/hubs/open-access

Looking questions

What do you literally observe? Which design decisions are evident? What is uncertain or missing from this source? What does a second source change?

Source critique

For an artist study, identify the artist, date and medium of each original work before discussing influence. For arts integration, record the data or primary text behind the artwork and test its accuracy.

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Connection back to the studio

Return to How do decorative surfaces direct attention to a person? Use source evidence to justify a new artistic response: Portrait silhouette surrounded by self-designed patterns.