



OGDEN MUSEUM  
OF SOUTHERN ART

## Movement Mondays: Expressing Emotions through Portraiture



Kathleen Blackshear, *Portrait of Robert Gould*, 1932,  
Oil on canvas, 39" x 24", Gift of the Roger H. Ogden  
Collection, 2003.1

**Express your emotions through portraiture.**

**Kathleen Blackshear** is known for her American Scene and Depression Era regionalist style portraits of African Americans. She became a unique teacher of the arts by encouraging her students not only to visit art galleries, but to also spend time in museums of natural history, zoos and cultural institutions for inspiration.

### Instructions

**Step 1:** Look at the artwork, *Portrait of Robert Gould* by Kathleen Blackshear. How do you think the boy in the painting is feeling? How can you tell he is feeling this way? What do you notice about his body language?

**Step 2:** Think about an emotion that you want to **express**. Maybe you can smile to express happiness or frown to express sadness.

**Step 3:** Once you have decided on an emotion to express, ask a friend, parent or guardian to guess what emotion you are expressing.

**Step 4:** Ask the same person to use a camera or camera phone to take your **portrait**. If a camera or a camera phone isn't available, the person can use their hands and imagination. Ask them to make a frame by extending their thumbs and index fingers. Touch the tips of the index fingers to the thumbs to make a box. Close one eye to focus. Say cheese!

**Step 5 (Optional):** Repeat the activity. This time express a different emotion. Look in books or on the Internet to find other examples of portraits. What emotions are these people expressing?

### Vocabulary

**Portrait** - an image of a person; genre of art

**Expression** — the process of making known one's thoughts or feelings

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