



OGDEN MUSEUM  
OF SOUTHERN ART

## O-riginal Art Activities: Silhouette Portrait Inspired by Clementine Hunter



Clementine Hunter, *African Head*, c. 1976, Oil on canvas,  
Gift of Michael Burke

**Clementine Hunter** was from the Cane River region of Louisiana and taught herself how to paint while living and working on Melrose Plantation. While she did not start painting until later in her life, she took inspiration from her experiences, memories and everyday life on Melrose Plantation.

**Create a silhouette portrait using bold, solid colors like Clementine Hunter has done.**

**SEE CLEMENTINE HUNTER'S AFRICAN HEAD IN PRESERVATIVE FORCE: RECENT ACQUISITIONS TO THE COLLECTION AT OGDEN MUSEUM.**

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**QUESTIONS? EMAIL  
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### Supplies

Color/Pattern Paper, Scissors, Glue, Markers, Pencil

### Instructions

**Step 1:** Look at Clementine Hunter's **portrait**. What do you notice about it? Hunter uses bold, solid colors to depict the face and shoulders of the subject. Notice that the head wrap has a **pattern** made up of black and yellow strips and orange polka dots.

**Step 2:** Decide if you want to create your own self-portrait or make a portrait of a friend or family member.

**Step 3:** Notice that the background of Hunter's portrait is white. Pick a color or pattern paper that you want to use for the background of your portrait.

**Step 4:** Decide what color you want as the skin tone. Hunter has used black to indicate skin color or emphasize the **silhouette** of the portrait. Use a pencil to draw an oval on the "skin tone" paper. Use a mirror if you are drawing yourself. Look at the profile (side view) of the face. What shape does your forehead, nose and mouth make? Use a pencil to draw the face profile on one side of the oval. Use scissors to cut out the head.

**Step 5:** Decide what color/pattern paper you want to use for the shoulders in the portrait. Use the cut out head as a guide. Use a pencil to draw a shoulder and neck. Use scissors to cut out the shoulders.

**Step 6:** Clementine finished her portrait with a patterned head wrap. What does your hair look like? Do you want your portrait to have hair, a head wrap or a hat? Pick the color or pattern paper for the hair or head wrap. Use the head as a guide. Use a pencil to draw the hairstyle. Use scissors to cut out the hair. Use a glue stick to glue all of the pieces together on the background paper.

**Step 7:** Clementine added details to her portrait. Notice that the head wrap has orange polka dots and there is a brooch on the shoulder. Use markers to add details to your portrait.

**Step 8:** Look at the right hand corner. Clementine Hunter created a **symbol** of her initials; a backwards C and an H to use as her signature. How will you sign your artwork? Write your full name, use your initials or create your own symbol to sign your work in the right hand corner.

### Vocabulary

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

**Pattern** – a repetition of specific visual elements in art

**Symbol** - an object or concept that represents, stands for or suggests another idea, visual image, belief or action

**Silhouette** - is the image of a person, animal, object or scene represented as a solid shape of a single color, with its edges matching the outline of the subject

