

## The Portraiture Series

**Background:** The Parkville Frame Gallery is pleased to offer **The Portraiture Series**. This series is a collection of images created by well-known and well-respected artists who often specialized in painting portraits.



***Portrait of Willie Gee*** (1904)  
Robert Henri

**Date painted:** 1904

**How originally painted:** Oil on canvas

**Size:** 26 x 31 inches (image size)

**Where on display:** Newark Museum of Art, Newark, N.J.

**The Art:** ***Portrait of Willie Gee*** Willie Gee, an African-American boy of a tender age, is seated with an apple in hand and wearing rumpled clothing. The artist noted in his daybook that Gee was the son of a woman who had been a slave in Virginia and had recently moved north. The nondescript, brushy background of browns and grays offers little commentary or details as to who Gee actually is, and in its simplicity renders the young boy as quite humble.

**The Artist:** **The artist: Robert Henri** (American, 1865—1929) was a major proponent of a gritty style of urban realism around the turn of the century. His style was shaped by early years in Europe in the 1890s. Henri worked against the grain of New York City's more conservative art establishment and, with a group of artists who came to be known as The Eight, helped organize an independent exhibition in 1908. This group, the core of what would come to be known as the Ashcan school, broke new ground by focusing on realistic, often gritty scenes of everyday urban life. Henri's work is characterized by bold brushstrokes and thickly applied paint. His palette gradually grew more vibrant as his interest in color theory developed.



***Juan de Pareja*** (Early 1650)  
Diego Rodríguez de Silva y Velázquez

**Date painted:** 1650

**How originally painted:** Oil on canvas

**Size:** 32 x 27 1/2 in. (81.3 x 69.9 cm)

**Where on display:** Museo del Prado, Madrid, Spain

**The Art:** In 1648, Velázquez was dispatched to Rome by Philip IV of Spain to buy works of art for the Alcázar palace in Madrid. In Rome, he painted an official portrait of Pope Innocent X (Galleria Doria Pamphilj, Rome). Before starting work on the papal portrait, he made an informal painting of his own assistant, Juan de Pareja, a Sevillian of Moorish descent. This picture was exhibited in Rome on March 19, 1650. In his life of Velázquez (1724), Palomino writes that the painting "was generally applauded by all the painters from different countries, who said that the other pictures in the show were art but this one alone was 'truth.'" The direct approach in this painting contrasts with the more formal structure of Velázquez's state portraits.

**The Artist:** Diego Rodríguez de Silva y Velázquez (1599-1660) was a Spanish painter, the leading artist in the court of King Philip IV of Spain and Portugal, and of the Spanish Golden Age. He was an individualistic artist of the Baroque period.



***Portrait of Adele Bloch-Bauer I***  
Gustav Klimt

**Date painted:** Between 1903 and 1907

**How originally painted:** Oil and gold leaf on canvas

**Size:** 55 $\frac{1}{8}$  in  $\times$  55 $\frac{1}{8}$  in (140 cm  $\times$  140 cm)

**Where on display:** Neue Galeria, New York

**The Art:** *Portrait of Adele Bloch-Bauer I* Also called *The Lady in Gold*, or *The Woman in Gold*, is a painting by Gustav Klimt that was completed between 1903 and 1907. The portrait was commissioned by the sitter's husband, Ferdinand Bloch-Bauer, a Jewish banker and sugar producer. The painting was stolen by the Nazi in 1941 and displayed at the Österreichische Galerie Belvedere. The portrait is the final and most fully representative work of Klimt's golden phase. It was the first of two depictions of Adele by Klimt; the second was completed in 1912. These were two of several works by the artist that the family owned.

Adele died in 1925; her will asked that the artworks by Klimt were to be left to the Galerie Belvedere, although these belonged to Ferdinand, not her. Following the Anschluss of Austria by Nazi Germany, Ferdinand fled Vienna, and made his way to Switzerland, leaving behind much of his wealth, including his large art collection. The painting was stolen by the Nazis in 1941, along with the remainder of Ferdinand's assets, after a charge of tax evasion was made against him.

**The Artist:** **Gustav Klimt** (1862-1918) was an Austrian symbolist painter and one of the most prominent members of the Vienna Secession movement. Klimt is noted for his paintings, murals, sketches, and other objets d'art. Klimt's primary subject was the female body, and his works are marked by frank eroticism.