

# Art A Day CHALLENGE: Lit Selfies

## Washington County Museum of Fine Arts

We challenge you to an art activity each day of the School Closure! If you decide to complete this challenge, share it with us in the comments and on Instagram @WCMFA and use the hashtag #ARTaDayCHALLENGE

### Stuff you'll Need:

**If you like to draw:** pencil/graphite/or charcoal, paper, a light source (bright desk light, flashlight, anything you can shine directly on your face), objects that represent your personality, and a mirror.



**If you like photography:** A camera/phone, objects that represent your personality, a light source (bright desk light, flashlight, anything you can shine directly on your face).

### Words you need to know:

**Contrast:** Opposites placed near each other in one picture. It can be sizes, colors, shapes, lines, or light vs. dark. Today we will focus on contrast of light and dark.

Composition:

### What you need to do:

**LOOK:** Take a look at Godfried Schalcken, *Self Portrait of the Artist Holding a Candle*, 1694. This portrait is a lot like "selfies" that we see today! He painted himself to look a lot younger than he actually was and painted himself in fancy clothes to look extra wealthy! Look at the **contrast** between the light areas that deep dark shadows. The candle is meant to act as the light source to create this intense **contrast**.

Godfried Schalcken  
Dutch, 1643-1700  
*Self Portrait of the Artist Holding a Candle,*  
1694

**MAKE:** Create either a pencil/charcoal drawing of yourself OR a photographed self portrait of yourself.

Take time to set up your composition. Where will your face be? Where will your light source be? What do you want people to think about you? Are you silly, mysterious, fancy, smart, athletic, etc? What can you include in your picture to show us this part of your personality? Make the room you are in as dark as possible. Shine your light source on your face to create shadows and highlights that are interesting to you.

If you are drawing: If you are drawing yourself, place a mirror in front of you and get your materials ready. Use your pencil or charcoal to create the dark **contrast** areas. Your eraser can act as a highlighter! If you have an area that is extra bright, you can erase it.

If you prefer to use photography: find an interesting angle. Remember that the shadows created by the light are just as important as the highlighted areas. Is it casting strong shadows? Is it creating a strong **contrast**? What does your portrait say about you?

**SHARE:** POST your creation in the comments on FACEBOOK and Tag @WCMFA on Instagram and use the hashtag # ARTaDayCHALLENGE