

# Art A Day CHALLENGE: Fashion and Fabric

## Washington County Museum of Fine Arts

### FA3: Use societal, cultural, and historical contexts to develop appropriate interpretations of various artistic works

Performing artists make interpretive decisions based on their understanding of the social, cultural and historical context of the piece of art. Visual artists develop ideas and understandings of society, culture, and history through their interactions with and analysis of art.

How does knowing the contexts histories, & traditions of art forms help us create works of art & design?

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: Read through the challenge to decide...the materials you use are up to you!

### Words to know:

**Texture:** The way something feels, or the ways something appears to feels.

**LOOK** at this large, full length painting of a woman in a shiny tangerine colored gown. She stands in front of a geometric garden and an urn with a bouquet of flowers. Her hair is pulled back in and arranged fashionably for the time period (1639). When people wore large, shiny silk fabric and had paintings like this painted of them, it is probably safe to assume they were wealthy. Having a painting like this displayed in your home would be an indication that the family had power from political and social connections.

Wearing the latest fashion, made with beautiful fabrics, was also indicators of social status. Appearing in this gown of what seems to be silk, with large sleeves, deep necklines, and curled hair placed carefully around her face, this woman is giving us a glimpse of what the most sought after style was in the 1630s. The ability to represent fabric **textures** in portraits was important to portrait artists and to fashion designers. Here is a website that can give you a few quick tips on creating the illusion of smoothly textured dresses: <https://www.idrawfashion.com/clothes/textiles/150-how-to-draw-silk-and-satin/>.

**THINK** about what a portrait of today's style would look like. What kind of fabrics would you use to design a dress or outfit that would give people of the future a glimpse into today's style? Think about hair, and background as well!

**CREATE** the next new fashion trend! Imagine the texture of the fabrics you will use. Find ways to visually represent the fabric **texture**. Consider the way colors work together and the overall shape of the design. Include hair, makeup, and jewelry to accessorize the design.

**Writing Journal Prompt:** Write about what type of person would wear this design. Where would they wear it?



Cornelius Johnson  
English, of Flemish descent, 1593-1661  
Elizabeth Cokayne, Viscountess  
Fanshawe (1609-1667)  
1639

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