

## Classroom Application: Reading Portraits

Choose one Heritage Fellow portrait to study carefully. Do not look at the artists' bios yet!

**1. "Reading" a photograph is like reading any text. Look closely at the portrait for one minute.**

What clues to the artist's life and art form do you see?

What do gesture, objects, clothing, hairstyle, and facial expressions reveal?

What title would you give this portrait?

**2. Before reading the artist's bio, answer these questions.**

What do you think the artist does?

Where do you think the artist lives?

What clues inform your assumptions?

What do you know about this art form?

**3. Read the artist's bio.**

What surprised you?

What did you assume correctly?

What did you assume incorrectly?

What questions would you want to ask the artist?

**4. Write an exhibition label for this portrait describing how the choice of dress and adornment relates to the artist's cultural identity.**