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.