

# LOOKING TO LEARN

January 2022



This month we looked at a selection of works from Agnes Grochulska's *Archetypes* series in the Virginia MOCA Community Gallery, read the book *Milo Imagines the World* by Matt de la Peña, and created portraits with colored wire. If you missed our program, or are looking to continue the discussion from home, here are the highlights!

**MAKING ASSUMPTIONS:** It is deeply human to create shortcuts in how we think about people. As we grow up, we are taught what to expect when it comes to a person's appearance and how they might behave. It is easy to make assumptions about who people are simply based on how they look. But what can a person's face *really* tell us about who they are? Perhaps appearances do not tell full stories.



Agnes Grochulska, *The Jester*.  
Oil on Canvas.  
Courtesy of the artist.

## ARCHETYPES BY AGNES GROCHULSKA

Through painted portraits, Agnes Grochulska shows how common personality types appear in her own imagination. In exploring these works, you might find differences between the artist's assumptions about a person and your own.

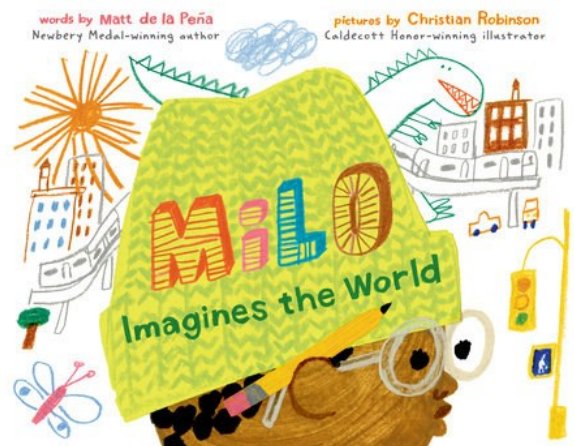
Lets look at a portrait together. What do you see? What kind of lines did the artist use? What can you tell about the person in this artwork?

- Complete the [character matching worksheet](#) in your art kit!
- What did you see in the artworks that helped you to make these choices?

## MILO IMAGINES THE WORLD BY MATT DE LA PEÑA

This book is about a boy who draws pictures of people's lives based on the stories their faces tell. However, when Milo realizes one of his stories is wrong, he begins to change his thinking. Milo wonders about the quick judgments and assumptions he's made about people and considers different possibilities. Watch a read aloud of *Milo Imagines the World* from the author [here](#).

- BEFORE READING– Look at the cover of the book. What do you see? What can you tell about this person?
- AFTER READING– What is something new we learned about Milo? What did Milo learn in the story?



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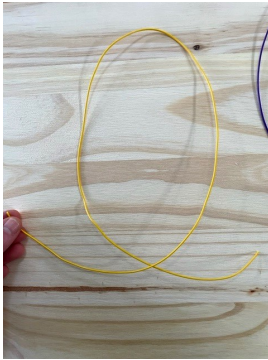
**ART MAKING ACTIVITY:** A portrait is a picture of a person. Today we are going to use wire to create a portrait of a person's face using contour lines. A contour outlines the shape of something. The purpose of contour is to show the nature of a subject rather than its details. Artist Agnes Grochulska uses contours in her portraits to encourage viewers to fill in the blanks of what is left untold.

## SUPPLY LIST:

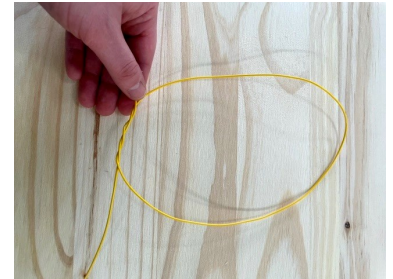
- Pencil
- Twisteez Colored Wire (2+ pieces)
- [Character Matching worksheet](#)
- [Artist Statement worksheet](#)



## INSTRUCTIONS:



1. Choose the person you will make a portrait of. Maybe it is someone you've seen a picture of or someone in your home!



2. Bend one piece of colored wire into an oval (head shape) about the size of your hand. Crisscross and wrap the wire to close and secure your shape.

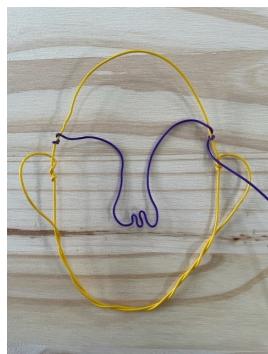


3. Use the leftover ends of your wire to create ears.

4. Pick up another piece of wire. Wrap the end of your new wire around the outside of your shape to connect it.



5. Use your fingers to bend and twist your wire into different parts of the face. Make sure to include eyes, a nose, and a mouth!



6. If you need to add another piece of wire, simply wrap the end of the new wire around another piece of wire on your shape to connect it.

7. When you are done, wrap the end of the wire you are working with around another piece to finish your portrait! All of your wires should be connected to create one continuous line.



8. Write about your portrait using the [Artist Statement Worksheet](#).