About Face

College of Wooster Art Museum, Fall 2021

The Differences That Make Us

Imagine a world where everyone looked the same—how boring and confusing would that be?! Luckily, we all have variations in our features that makes each of us uniquely us!

Compare the features of 2 faces in the exhibition, or your face to the face on the cover of this booklet. Look at the shape, hair, eyes, ears, nose, mouth, skin…..

What is similar about these faces?
What features are different?
What do these differences and similarities tell you about each person?

Face Detective

You can tell a lot about a person from their face!
Test your intuition and observations!

Choose an artwork you are curious about

How old do you think this person is? _____

Enter Age Here

Circle the words that describe this person's mood:

Angry

Shy

Excited

Surprised

Worried

Serious

Sad

Other: _____

Adjective

What do you think the person is thinking about?

Draw or write it here.

Low-level processing

When you first see a face, your brain gathers information about simple lines and shapes. This is called low-level processing!

This face by artist Henri Matisse is a good example of the details that low-level processing pays attention to.

You can see a face, but you might not be able to identify the face as an individual. This is because important information about the details of the face is missing.

Can you create a simple face
just using lines like Matisse? Try below!

Super Senses

Faces are a major tool in identifying people as individuals. But did you know many people are unable to recognize faces? Instead, they must rely on other ways to recognize their friends and family.

Can you do the same? Complete the story below to use your senses to identify someone without looking at their face!

Without looking at their face, I know it is

_____

Person's name

They smell like _____

scent

Their voice is _____

Adjective (loud, sing-song, pretty, etc.)

Their hug is _____

Adjective (tight, warm, comforting, etc.)

They have _____ hair

Length and color

Lastly, I know it's them because they are

_____

Favorite thing about them

Uniquely Human

Ever think about how animals don't really make the same facial expressions as humans? Some of this is because of muscles and facial structure. Animals more closely related to us such as apes can display similar expressions such as smiling while cats cannot.

Do you have a pet? How do they show what their mood is? Maybe you know your dog is happy when they wag their tail. Write about what your pet does when they are feeling happy, sad, scared, cuddly, below. *(if you don't have a pet describe what you think your favorite animal would do!)*

_____

_____

_____

Draw your favorite animal making a funny face
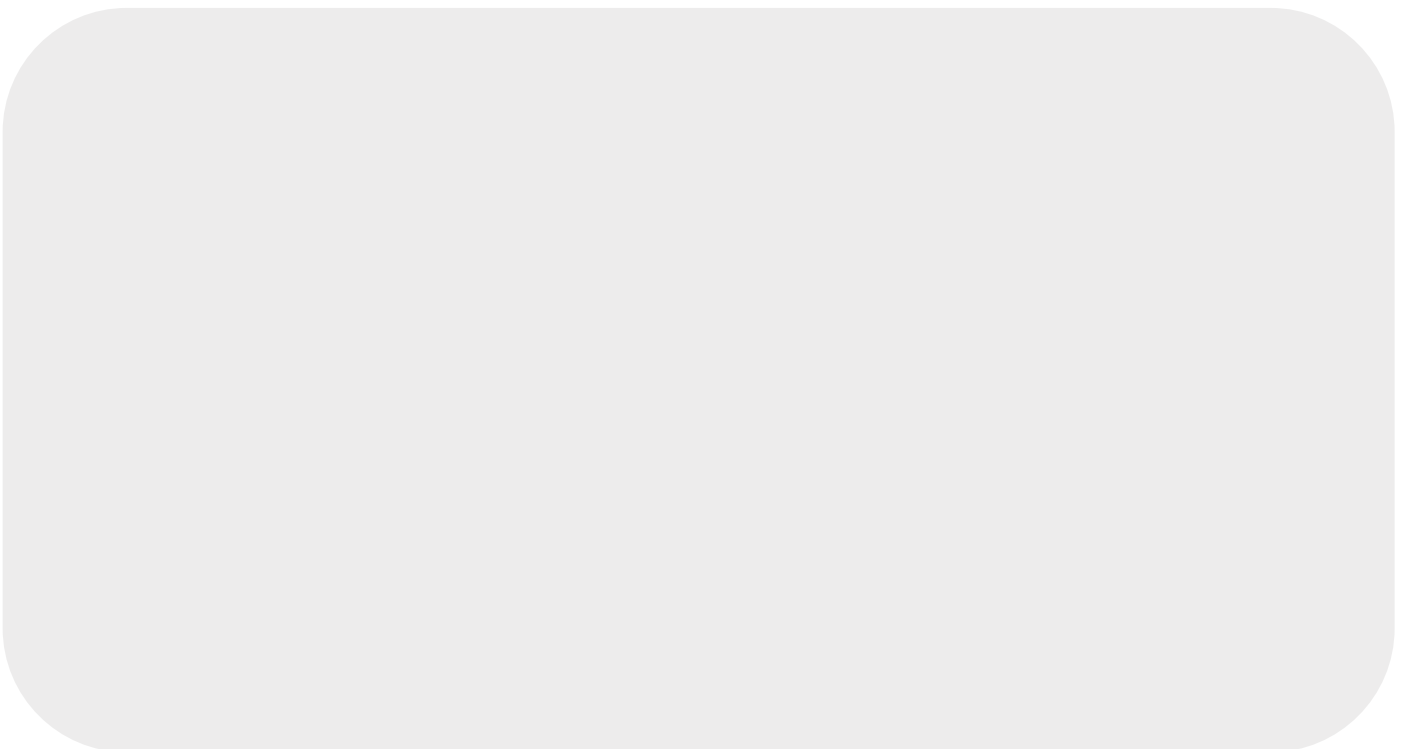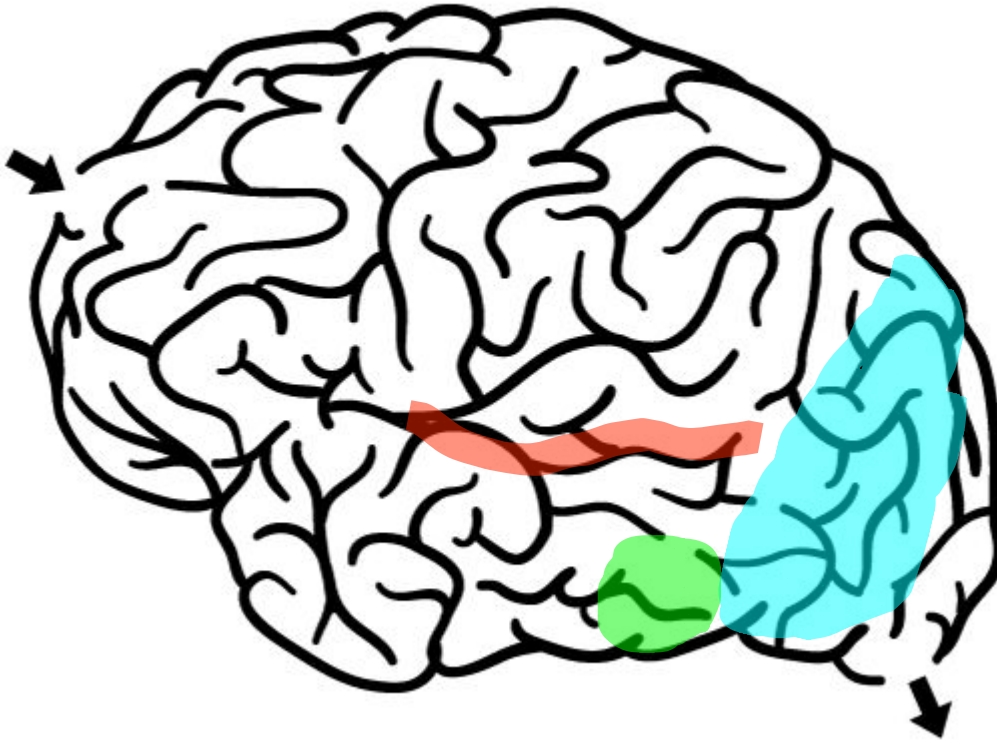
The A-MAZE-ing Brain

**Make your way through the brain while learning about
different parts of the brain and their role in facial perception!**

**Red: Superior Temporal Sulcus (STS)- Processes information about where
someone is looking, helping us understand their emotions and what they
are looking at.**

**Blue: Lateral Occipital Cortex (LOC)- Processes objects by their individual
parts. This part of the brain allows you to understand that a face is made up
of two eyes, a nose, and a mouth.**

**Green: Fusiform Face area (FFA)- An area of the brain specialized in
recognizing all the parts (eyes, nose, and mouth) together (holistically) so
we can identify a person.**

Fun Fact
A person can become so familiar with a certain kind of object
(like cars or dinosaurs for example) that they can holistically process
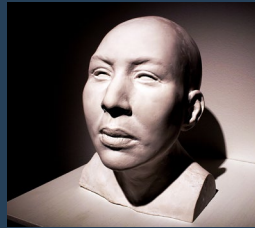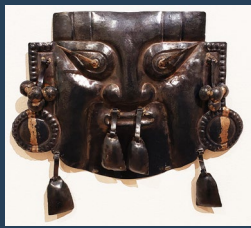that type of object using their FFA.
This makes the person an "object expert"!

Night at the CWAM

At the end of the day when everyone goes home, as the sun sets and the moon shines, magic occurs at the museum and the art comes alive!

In the space below draw or write about what you think happens!

How do they interact? Do they talk to each other? What are they saying?