

00:07 Hello and welcome.
00:08 I'm Deborah Davidson, director of the Suffolk University Gallery.
00:12 I'm pleased to take you on a virtual tour of the current exhibition
00:16 "Portraiture 1: Others Mostly Painting."
00:24 I found this quote by novelist
00:26 Oscar Wilde, which I think is so apt for the artists in this exhibition.
00:30 "Each portrait that is painted with feeling is a portrait of the artist,
00:34 not of the sitter.
00:35 The sitter is merely the accident, the occasion.
00:39 It is not he who is revealed by the painter.
00:41 It is rather the painter who on the colored canvas reveals himself."
00:46 The exhibition asked many questions that originally guided me
00:50 in choosing the artists.
00:52 Their work answers some of these questions.
00:55 What is a portrait?
00:56 Is it a construction?
00:58 Is it a performance?
01:00 Are we always performing in some way?
01:03 How do we see each other?
01:05 How do we see ourselves?
01:08 Who is looking at who?
01:10 How does the camera influence perception?
01:13 For example, all the artists in the show use photographs as a primary resource.
01:19 A larger indirect question is how has our perception changed with social media?
01:25 The role of the artists is to point to things when depicting someone,
01:29 the artist makes decisions about what story to tell.
01:32 Portraits not only articulate something about the subject, but also how
01:36 that subject wants to be depicted and how the artist wants to depict them.
01:41 In addition, the viewer is invited to add to that conversation through projection.
01:46 That is, the experience of the work also becomes about one's identity.
01:52 The work of these artists: Keith
01:55 Morris Washington, Colleen Kiely,
01:58 Susan White Brown, Daphne Confar,
02:02 Laura Chasman, and Catherine Kehoe gives us clues to who we are.