

Class Portrait Process: Continuing a Blue Room Tradition

August 2017

At the start of the 2016-2017 school year, Kalei made the intention for the children to have more ownership and independence in the class portrait taking process. With our new cameras, the children were able to flip the screen around into self-portrait mode, so many of them decided to take their own photos with a special item or in a particular location of the school. Continuing this tradition, over the past couple of weeks I spoke with several small groups of children and we decided how we would take our class portraits.

August 8th: Camera Tutorial by Colin and Wren



I invited **Colin** and **Wren**, Blue Room vets, to the patio to give a quick tutorial on how to use the camera. Colin enthusiastically explained the camera's several functions. **Tashi** and **Aleita** began pretending to take one another's photo with a play phone. Colin and **Eleanor** focused on taking self-portraits with the turn-around screen feature. At first she struggled with the shutter release: holding it down just a little produces an effect that makes one think that the photo has been taken, but to take the photo it must be held down completely.





August 16th

The next group of portrait takers decided to venture down the ramp. **Lucas** came along, but he did not take his final portrait until later. **Axel** practiced with the camera, but eventually decided he wanted me to take his photo while he held a race car. **Julian** took a few self-portraits and was satisfied with his last one. Sinclair, observing Julian's process, took his self-portrait next. Although **Sinclair** had many self-portraits of him smiling, the photo he chose was one with him making a more serious face. **Colin** and **Leo** decided to take their photos standing up on the end of the breezeway. **Margaret** wanted to take her photo in "a dark place," so we went to the studio, where she took her stern self-portrait.

"I don't wanna smile. I'm a frowner."
-Margaret



After this group completed their portraits, Lucas and Noble took their time taking photos of one another until they each decided on one that they liked. Noble wanted his portrait taken holding his bunny.



August 17th:

Similarly, **Reece** and **Jonah** wanted to take one another's portraits. We went out in a small group on the porch and the two, along with Huck, immediately boarded the red "bye-bye buggy" to take their pictures. **Huck** decided on a self-portrait.





August 17th (continued): **Lila** and **Ruth** were adamant on taking one another's portrait. The two made silly faces and dance moves while snapping dozens of photos. The two went on to take silly-face selfies with the self-portrait mode. Finally, Lila chose a metal grate to use as a "fan" in her photo. Ruth decided on a silly selfie for her portrait.

Iosie wanted **Sinclair** to take her photo. She posed in a few different positions and quickly picked a photo she liked best.





August 28th: **Aleita**, who had still not had her official portrait taken, chose **Huck** to take it on the porch. While practicing with the camera herself, Aleita also took Landyn's portrait.

Landyn was very much engaged with drawing at the time, and she was adamant that her portrait captured her crayon in her hand and the small doodle she had begun.

Aleita, on the other hand, wanted to be photographed with legos. She was very particular about what color and shape of lego and changed it up several times until she had the proper combination.





Anyia Manuel
January 27th, 2013

August 21st: **Anyia, Evelyn, and Ruby** decided to take their portraits outside. We started on the breezeway but then decided to move to the playground. Anyia was initially camera shy, but settled on taking her photo with me in the background. Evelyn had Anyia take her photo quickly so she could get back to playing the game she was engaged in. Ruby took her time taking her portrait in several different locations of the playground. She was insistent on taking her own photo with the self-portrait mode and turned down assistance from Evelyn and Wren.



Evelyn Wishon
March 26th, 2013



Ruby Genovese
July 21st, 2014

Preston wanted me to take his picture. He quickly stuck out his tongue and posed for the photo. After seeing the result, he laughed and carried on in play.

Thoughts...

How has the portrait taking process helped in forming a sense of identity in the Blue Room?

How was the process different for the Blue Room veterans and the new Blue Roomers?

What other Blue Room traditions can we continue as the year goes on?



Preston Downs
February 7th, 2014

Julian: self portrait

Ruth: by Lila

Noble: by Lucas

Tashi: by Colin

Margaret: self portrait

Aleita: by Huck

Eleanor: by Wren

Lucas: by Noble

Anyia: by Margaret

Preston: by Rachel

Sinclair: self portrait

Evelyn: by Anyia

Josie: by Sinclair

Jonah: by Reece

Colin: self portrait

Lila: by Ruth

Huck: self portrait

Axel: by Rachel

Wren: by Colin

Reece: by Jonah

Ruby: self portrait

Leo: self portrait

Landyn: by Aleita