
Ghirlandaio: *Francesco Sassetti*

Domenico Ghirlandaio was considered one of the best portrait artists of the Renaissance. He painted the wealthy citizens of Florence, Italy, showing both their importance and his skill through their luxurious clothing and thoughtful expressions.



Domenico Ghirlandaio, *Francesco Sassetti and his Son, Teodoro*
ca. 1487, tempera on wood, 84.5 cm. x 64 cm.
The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY, USA

Discussion

Students analyze Ghirlandaio's realistic Renaissance portrait of Francesco Sassetti and his son, Teodoro, and how he captured the expressions of his subjects.

Students identify profile and frontal portraits and the way highlights and shading create form in the figures. They identify the techniques of perspective and learn about the style of the elaborate window-like frame.

Project: Framed Portrait

In their own artwork, students sketch faces in proportion. They draw portraits using chalk pastel techniques, and make frames.