

From: Diego Perrone – your artist-tutor  
Re: I draw who I am  
Date: 29 April 2020 15.30  
To: you, the members of the Artissima Junior team

Dear artist friends!  
I'm back.  
Now let's really get to work, with our hands and our imagination.

With this letter and the next one, I have chosen to encourage you to work on **portraits**.

What is a portrait?

A portrait is a work of art created with the aim of **depicting someone and his or her unique traits**.

Portraits can be paintings, sculptures, videos, or drawings.

We'll start with drawings.

When you try to draw a person's face you realize just how unique that person is, because everyone has different features, different colours. Though we might resemble someone in our family, we will never be identical, either physically or in terms of character. But the best portraits are not the ones that precisely show the features of a person. The best portraits, through an image, enable us to understand the emotions and the personality of their subjects. And a great portrait enables us to understand who we are, as we observe it.

Let's think about the picture cards of football players. If you have some at home, try looking at them.

You will find many players with the same hair colour or the same sort of eyes, as well as the same first name, but no two of them are equal, just as they do not all have the same ability as defenders, or the same offensive power.

**The fact that we are all unique is the force of a team**, and since we are now part of a special team of artists we need to know about the unique traits of which our team is made, the things that make us special, our strong points and our identities.

### Are you ready?

We can begin by making a **portrait of ourselves**. This practice is called a **Self-Portrait**. You will probably find it difficult to draw yourself from memory, without copying your image. My advice is not to copy a photograph, because that's too easy. And you already have the photo, so it is useless to make another one.

It is much more complicated – and much more fun – to copy from something that reflects your image, which would otherwise leave no trace unless you made a drawing.

You can decide to copy your image in the mirror. You'll see... it is not so easy, because if you are drawing you cannot stay still. This is a good way to learn to draw from reality, because in reality things do not always stand still.

You can also try to draw your reflection on a curved surface, which is even harder!

For example, if you look at your reflection on the lid of a pot, your image will be deformed, but I am sure you will find a way to make your drawing resemble you.

In the history of art, artists have always made **self-portraits in their youth and also in old age**, to tell their story to the world.

When your self-portrait is done, it's time to transform it into a **picture card**!

Just like the trading cards of football players, your card tells about who you are.

Your **self-portrait** will show your face, but I'd like you to add some other information, things that make you unique: your **age**, which gets transformed to become the number on your jersey, your **height** in millimetres (if you're good at maths... otherwise use any formula you want!), and – obviously – your **pseudonym**!

### What's missing?

Well... every football player plays for a team, and we are **playing on the team of Artissima Junior**. So you can draw the **symbol of a cheering kid**, which represents our team.

To make things easier, I have drawn two picture cards so you can get an idea of how it's done. I left the jersey white, because I want you to decide on the colours and pattern of the jersey of a **team of artists**... but I did add a bowtie and a cat!

Yes, the bowtie is my way of "putting on airs", to feel more like an artist, and maybe the cat can do the same for you. You can decide what accessory to use, to feel like a genuine artist!

You can see my picture cards below.

You can trace one from the screen, print it, just get ideas from it, or colour it!

When your picture card is ready and coloured, you can choose whether to keep it to yourself, to show it to your friends and family, or to share it with all the other participating artists, getting help to upload it to the Artissima website (by **Sunday 3 May!**).

If you decide to share it, **in the days to come you will see it together with the others** on the Artissima Junior page of the Artissima site.

As we gradually receive your picture cards, we will attach them – as in an album – one beside the next.

In the end, we'll have a team photo!

Just like the team, the photo cannot help but be special, because it is the result of the work you have all done... and it will have the form of the Juventus logo.

See you soon!

I'll be back on **5 May**... check your mail!

Diego

**P.S. To upload the photo, go to the 'share' button and click on '+ upload image'. If you want to include a message you will make me happy!**

