



United Diversity Portraits

A relational art program presented by artist Andrew Owen A01

Andrew Owen A01

647-770-0885

andrew_a01@yahoo.ca



United Diversity Portraits

DESCRIPTION:

United Diversity Portraits are an interactive, relational art program presented by visual artist Andrew Owen A01. The program includes participants in the collaborative creation of photo-based artworks, live, on-site, and is quick and entertaining, producing immediate, unique and remarkable artistic results.

SET-UP: The program involves setting-up basic photographic equipment, including two soft-box photo lights on tripods, digital cameras, instant photo printers, and assorted power and data cables. An empty wall or partition is required to hang small coloured backdrop cards to photograph participants against, and to temporarily assemble the artworks upon. One or two folding table to arrange the printers and cameras, and several chairs for participants to sit, are also required.

CONSENT: Participants provide formal consent by signing a simple media release form; minor participants must have a release form signed by a parent or guardian. As the final artworks are composed from close-up images of many people, no single person is clearly identifiable, and the personal identity of individuals is not publically revealed.

PROCESS: Participants are invited to sit or stand in front of a coloured backdrop card. Close-up images of participant's facial features are photographed at 1:1-scale, and immediately printed on-site at 1:1-scale as glossy 4 x 6 inch prints with an instant digital photo printer, *without employing a computer or Photoshop*.

A succession of images of many participants' facial features are photographed in a circular pattern, like to a clock face, radiating outward from the nose in order to maximize the number of images that can be combined. As the program progresses, the many photographic prints with close-up images of facial features are temporarily assembled by the participants into hybrid portraits composed of many people's facial features combined as single faces.

As more and more prints are created during the course of the program the many close-up images are rearranged and reconfigured into series of United Diversity Portraits composed from prints of facial features that work best together. The variations of facial features that can be combined is virtually endless; however, some combinations work better than others, and over the course of the program several excellent United Diversity Portraits are created.

STATEMENT:

Celebrating diversity, and equal respect for all people regardless of ethnicity, colour, gender, sexuality, age, ability, religion, caste, education, profession, etc., are increasingly important principles; however, visually representing diversity without resorting to visual clichés - such as a group of smiling ethnically diverse schoolchildren wearing ethnic costumes - is difficult, and unable to represent a more inclusive scope of diversity, such as varying abilities or sexuality.

Supporting diversity includes the acknowledging and celebrating many specific sub-cultures, for example, Chinese-Canadians, senior citizens, or the LGBT community; however, hyphenated cultural terms such as "Asian art," "women's art," "senior culture" or "gay culture" are somewhat exclusive terms, that are not necessarily inclusive of all people. Regrettably, the celebration of specific cultures often inadvertently excludes others.

The United Diversity Portraits art program overcomes some of these issues by abandoning artificial distinction between people based on outmoded notions of "difference." Manifesting images of people that are post-colour, post-ethnicity, post-gender, post-sexuality, post-age and post-ability. Employing a non-discriminatory creative process that gives expression to the distinction-free flux that is the ever-changing dynamic diversity of Toronto people.



















United Diversity Portraits

**A participatory, relational art program
presented by Andrew Owen A01**

Andrew Owen A01

Mobile: +1.647.770.0885

Email: andrew_a01@yahoo.ca

Web: www.A01creative.com

Portfolio: [A01 ART NOW PDF](#)