610 N. 8th Street, Manitowoc, Wisconsin
rahrwestartmuseum.org

The Rahr-West Art Museum is a department of the City of Manitowoc.

This project is generously funded by

Art Bridges

Portraits from the Rahr-West Art Museum Collection:
Rembrandt Peale, Portrait of Ann Foster Swift, oil, 1836, 82.206, Gift of Mrs. John D. West
Mary West, Male Portrait and Hand Studies, pencil, 1891, Gift of Mrs. John D. West
Ruth Grotenrath, Portrait with Moon Lantern, casein, 1976, Gift of the Schomer Lichtner Trust and the Kohler Foundation, 2009.1.10
Raphael Soyer, Self Portrait, lithograph, 1979, Gift of Eugene Schuster and London arts Inc., 96.7.30
Lester Bentley, Emmy Lout, lithograph, n.d., Gift of Mrs. John D. West, 91.5.7

The Portrait of Manitowoc Project

A Community Art Project and Installation presented by portrait artist Sonia Vasquez and the Rahr-West Art Museum
To Participate:

Please use the provided paper and do not extend your work past the existing 4x6” dimensions. The “postcards” will be mounted in a double-sided frame so that they can be viewed from both sides.

This is 140lb oil primed paper — sufficient for most commonly used mediums, could be primed further with a gesso if desired. Please use the provided paper only.

Recommended Media:

Any two-dimensional media is appropriate: oil paint, acrylic paint, watercolor, gouache, pencil, markers or paint pen, or oil pastel. Any loose material, such as pastel, chalk or charcoal must be sprayed with fixative. Any paint used should be completely dry before returning the work. If using collage, please be advised that photo corners will be used in the installation and the corners must be thin enough to fit into the photo corners.

Instructions:

1. Orient the paper vertically (that is the longer edge of paper is on the left and right side, not along the top)
2. Create a self-portrait on one side of paper using your choice of media. You can interpret “self-portrait” however you choose.
3. Please include on the backside: your name, your age, medium, and answer the question: “How do you feel about your identity in relation to Manitowoc?”

Participation in the project gives the Rahr-West Art Museum and Sonia Vasquez permission to reproduce the work with credit to the artists. The work will not be returned to you and becomes the property of the artist. The Rahr-West Art Museum reserves the right to omit any submissions not in keeping with the spirit of the project.

This project will be installed at the Rahr-West Art Museum February 28-June 6, 2021 and may travel to other locations after that.

Portraits are artistic representations of a person, in which the face and expression predominates. Portraits historically have been used to display wealth and power, but also to communicate the mood and personality of subjects.

How does one create a portrait of an entire community?

In a way, an art museum is like a portrait of a community. The images on walls and in the archives represent the values of the community—these are the things that the community has found worthy of preserving and sharing. The Rahr-West Art Museum has served as a place to view art, including portraits, in Manitowoc since 1975. Like many museums, however, the collection and exhibition programs do not always reflect the actual diversity of a community.

The Portraits of Manitowoc Project recognizes that discrepancy and strives to create a diverse portrait of Manitowoc in the massively impactful year we are in, 2020. Artist Sonia Vasquez will be painting Manitowoc County residents of different backgrounds to ensure a diverse selection of community members are included in the final installation. Community members and artists are invited to participate by creating their own self-portraits. This project explores how our community sees itself and how individuals feel about their identities as citizens of Manitowoc.

The size of the individual works is taken from the simple postcard—a 4x6 inch piece of paper we use to capture a snapshot and a bit about ourselves. The final product will present a large-scale installation with hundreds, perhaps thousands of portraits of Manitowoc; some painted by Vasquez, others contributed by community members.

Representation matters. As a member of our community, make sure you represent in this project. Participate!