

Giuseppe Archimboldo

Key Vocabulary:

Portrait

Self Portrait

Surrealist

Surrealism

Archbishop

Noble Family

Fresco Paintings

Vertumnus

Count Palatine

30 Years War

Giuseppe Archimboldo was an Italian artist who lived in the 16th century. He is famous for painting unusual portraits of people using objects like fruit and vegetables.



Archimboldo was no ordinary portrait painter. He used fruit, vegetables, trees, plants and even sea creatures to create faces. He painted everything from his imagination. He worked hard to make the objects look like the face of the person he was painting. Archimboldo also painted people to look like the seasons. His painting showing winter was a person made of bare tree roots and branches. Archimboldo died in Milan in 1593. His paintings are now shown in galleries all over the world.

Giuseppe Archimboldo Knowledge Organiser

Archimboldo was born in 1526 or 1527 in Milan, Italy

His father was an artist who designed stained-glass displays

Archimboldo started his art career doing the same

He began designing windows for Milan Cathedral when he was about 21

He moved to Vienna in 1562 to paint portraits

Sequenced Learning:

1. Express opinions about the work of Archimboldo
2. Talk about features of portraits
3. Understand what a self portrait is
4. Use materials to produce self portrait in the style of Archimboldo
5. Evaluate own work and the work of others to suggest possible improvements



One of Archimboldo's most famous portraits is of Rudolf II as Vertumnus (the Roman god of the seasons and plant growth).

