

# Self-ish Portrait (Jean-Honoré Fragonard)

by Lauren Ingram

When observing the group of *Self-ish Portrait* paintings as a whole, I found it quite easy to get lost within the sea of diverse portraits, not sure of which I felt drawn to. I was intrigued by the colour palette and, in particular, the green striping across the entirety of this portrait of Jean-Honoré Fragonard. In contrast to all the other portraits in the collective, this detail was unique – it gave me the initial thought that maybe this artist hidden, introverted due to the almost ‘redacted’ style of the painting. Initially, I didn’t recognise the name, it wasn’t until I began researching that I found many of the paintings to be recognisably well-known.

Jean-Honoré Fragonard was a French painter/printmaker working in the late 1700s to early 1800s. His work didn’t gain recognition until 50 years after his death, indicating his progressive rococo style, as written in a Britannica article, ‘His death in 1806 passed almost unnoticed, and his work remained unfashionable until well after 1850.’ (Watson, n.d)

The connection between Fragonard’s relative anonymity during his work life and my initial feeling of an introverted artist that I got from Andrew’s painting ties into the way most of his paintings were viewed – he wasn’t ‘redacted’ from the artistic period, but very much went unnoticed during his time. Further on from this, most of Fragonard’s paintings are lost, not yet found by the art world – Andrew’s portrait portrays the sense that we are ‘uncovering’ Fragonard, each painting discovered allowing us to understand him more.

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Watson, F.J.B. (n.d.) Jean-Honoré Fragonard. Britannica, Available from <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Jean-Honore-Fragonard> [accessed 19 February 2024].