

# “Hero” Portraits in the Style of Vik Muniz



For this project you will make an image of a “HERO” either a person from your community who has inspired you personally (teacher, coach, family member—the portrait could be made as a gift to them) or a person who would inspire the community of LHS (an academic, a visionary, a person who leads positive social change) when they see your portrait on display in LHS.

Think about the theme of TRANSFORMATION and transform a material into a portrait. Think about how the material you choose is connected to the person you make a portrait of! Putting thought into this will give your art more meaning and purpose. You can make a portrait of yourself, a family member, a friend or a person that you look up to/etc. You must use a reference photograph. Using your OWN photograph that you take is best because then nobody else will have the same image as you (as opposed to using a photo from google!)

In the documentary “WASTELAND” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gInKde8FmH4> (9 min clip) Vik Muniz makes portraits of the catadores (recyclers) in his home country of Brazil using the recyclables and trash they work with on a daily basis (3rd photo above). For his series “Sugar Children”, he made portraits out of the sugar that their parents worked to hard in the sugarcane fields to produce (second photo above). Hollywood actress Elizabeth Taylor is made out of real diamonds which represent the wealth and glamour of the movie industry (above right). Vik Muniz also made a portrait of himself using old photographs (above left). How will the material you use relate to the person you are portraying? Watch the movie trailer for WASTELAND [HERE](#) - it is an inspiring movie!!

**VIDEO Vik Muniz: Art with wire, sugar, chocolate and string:** [www.youtube.com/watch?v=ik9x-eu49\\_c](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ik9x-eu49_c) (17 min clip)

**Brainstorm possible people for your portrait:**

**Brainstorm possible materials THAT SPECIFICALLY RELATE to your people:**

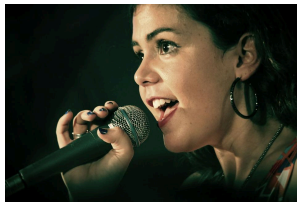
## WEBSITES

Vik Muniz’s website (check out his new projects) <http://vikmuniz.net/>  
 Vik’s TED presentation [www.ted.com/talks/vik\\_muniz\\_makes\\_art\\_with\\_wire\\_sugar?language=en](http://www.ted.com/talks/vik_muniz_makes_art_with_wire_sugar?language=en)  
 Vik Muniz on Twitter <https://twitter.com/vikmuniz>  
 Vik Muniz- studio visit <https://vimeo.com/47113512>  
 About Vik [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vik\\_Muniz](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vik_Muniz)  
 Info about Vik compiled by MIT <http://arts.mit.edu/artists/vik-muniz/>  
 Vik Muniz at the MFA Boston [www.mfa.org/search?search\\_api\\_views\\_fulltext=vik+muniz](http://www.mfa.org/search?search_api_views_fulltext=vik+muniz)  
 Vik Muniz on Instagram <https://instagram.com/vikmuniz/>  
 Collages made from old photographs [www.ufunk.net/en/photos/vik-muniz/](http://www.ufunk.net/en/photos/vik-muniz/)  
 Lucy Walker (filmmaker of WASTELAND) [www.lucywalkerfilm.com/](http://www.lucywalkerfilm.com/)

# 4 Ways to “Posterize” a Photograph

## **(1) Google Docs (Ms. Johnson recommends to try this one first as it works really well!)**

1. Copy and paste your photo into a google doc
2. Click on the photo (once you click on it it will have a blue border!)
3. From the task bar above hit “**image options**”
4. Click on “**No Recolor**”, scroll down and click on the black and white photo option.
5. Next click the “**Contrast**” button and slide it all the way to the right. (this will change your photo to solid black and white shapes only that you can then trace onto a canvas using the projector).
6. If the posterized image is too dark or light try adjusting the BRIGHTNESS to see more facial information (Click on the photo once, then hit IMAGE OPTIONS >> ADJUSTMENTS >> BRIGHTNESS). When you adjust the brightness levels you will see that it changes the shapes in the portrait.
7. Print your photo, remembering that any part of your image larger than 6.5 inches will not fit in the projector
8. This will give you a very simplified image- usually black and white only



Original photo



Changed to grayscale



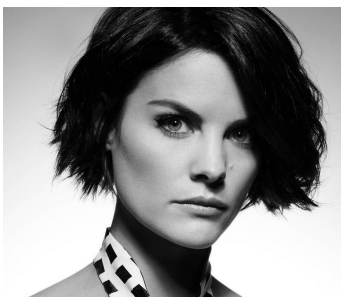
Increased contrast

## **(2) Website:** [www.imgonline.com.ua/eng/posterization-result.php](http://www.imgonline.com.ua/eng/posterization-result.php)

## **(3) Phone App:** POSTERSHINE

## **(4) Adobe Photoshop**

- **Open Adobe Photoshop on the computer** (Start > All programs > Adobe Master collection CS3 > Adobe Photoshop CS3)
- **Open your photo in Photoshop** (File > Open etc....)
- **Change your photo to grayscale** (skip this step if you want your photo in color) (Image > Mode > Grayscale....when it asks if you want to discard color, click “yes”)
- **Use the “Posterize” Filter** (Image > Adjustments > Posterize....To keep your photo to black and white shapes only, use “2”. If you want to add in shapes of gray try out different numbers such as 3, 4 or 5. This will change the amount of colors in the photo to 3 colors, 4 colors or 5 colors. Choose the number that you like best for your photo.)
- **Crop your photo so that you have an interesting composition.**
- **Change the size of your photo** if you are going to project it onto a board/canvas (Image > Image size .....highlight the \*\* inch\*\* dimensions of longest side of your photo and type in 6.5 inches) (This is because the projector will only project images that are 6.5 inches or smaller)



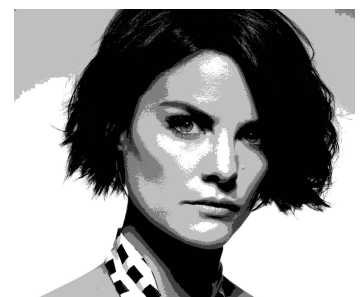
Original photo



Posterized level 2



Posterized level 3



Posterized level 5

## How to use the Mosaic or Pointillize Filter in Adobe Photoshop

- **Open Adobe Photoshop on the computer** (Start > All programs > Adobe Master collection CS3 > Adobe Photoshop CS3)
- **Open your photo in Photoshop** (File > Open etc....)
- **Change your photo to grayscale** (skip this step if you want your photo in color) (Image > Mode > Grayscale....when it asks if you want to discard color, click "yes")
- **Apply your chosen Filter!:**

If you want your photo turned into mosaic squares: (Filter > Pixelate > **Mosaic**....try changing the cell size for different effects.) or

If you want your photo turned into dots (like pushpins) (Filter > Pixelate > **Pointillize**....try changing the cell size for different effects.)



Mosaic



Pointillize

**In your sketchbook, RESEARCH ON YOUR SUBJECT + SKETCH IDEAS + experiment with alternative materials that relate to your person**

*Please paste this into your large rubric doc :)*

| VIK MUNIZ Style Portraits {rubric}                                                                                                                       |                  |                |                     |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|----------------|---------------------|
| PROJECT CRITERIA:                                                                                                                                        | POSSIBLE POINTS: | RATE YOURSELF: | TEACHER ASSESSMENT: |
| <u>PREP WORK</u> ORIGINAL PHOTO, POSTERIZED PHOTO, MATERIAL PRACTICE                                                                                     | 20               |                |                     |
| <u>PORTRAIT ACCURACY</u> PORTRAIT SHAPES ARE ACCURATE TO POSTERIZED PHOTO, PROJECT LOOKS JUST LIKE YOUR PERSON                                           | 20               |                |                     |
| <u>USE OF ALTERNATIVE MATERIAL</u> - CREATIVE USE OF AN ALTERNATIVE MATERIAL. MATERIAL RELATES TO YOUR PERSON + MAKES SENSE/ ADDS MEANING TO THE PROJECT | 20               |                |                     |
| <u>CRAFTSMANSHIP</u> - DONE WITH CARE + CONTAINS CAREFUL DETAIL, CHOSE APPROPRIATE VALUES (LIGHTS AND DARKS)/COLORS THAT MATCH THE POSTERIZED IMAGE      | 20               |                |                     |
| <u>PRESENTATION</u> - PHOTOGRAPH IS EXCELLENT QUALITY? (EVEN LIGHTING, CROPPED ALL 4 SIDES, SHOT STRAIGHT ON, ROTATED, NO SHADOWS )                      | 20               |                |                     |
| TOTAL POINTS                                                                                                                                             | 100              |                |                     |
|                                                                                                                                                          |                  |                |                     |