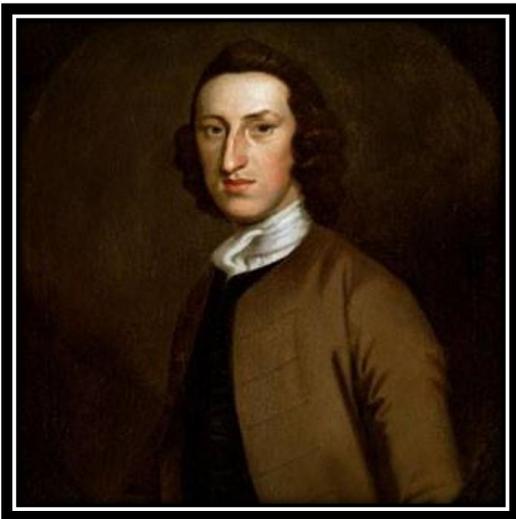




Make a Silhouette with Liberty Hall Museum

Portraits at Liberty Hall

While Liberty Hall is primarily a history museum, when visiting you'll see lots of amazing artwork, especially portraits of the people who lived here:



Painting of William Livingston,
circa late 18th century



Painting of Julia (Kean) Fish,
circa 19th century



Photograph of May (Kean)
Reynolds, 1945

Before the invention of the camera in the mid-1800s, the only way to preserve someone's likeness was to have a portrait painted. Having your portrait painted required sitting still for many hours for an artist to capture your likeness and it was also relatively expensive.

Silhouettes

Today, we are going to look at a different type of portrait, the silhouette! A silhouette is the outline of a person's face in profile (from the side) cut out of paper. Traditionally, the paper was black and, after cutting, the silhouette was placed against a white background. Silhouettes only took a few minutes to produce compared to the hours required for a formal painted portrait.

History of Silhouettes

Silhouettes date back to the mid-1700s in France where a man named Etienne Silhouette, a French finance minister, became known for making these inexpensive likenesses of his family and friends. In America, silhouettes were highly popular from about 1790 to 1840. Once the camera was invented, silhouettes lost their appeal. We have several silhouettes in the collection of Liberty Hall. Here are a few of our favorites:



3D Silhouette of a man on display in Mrs. Kean's Room, circa 19th century



3D Silhouette of a woman on display in Mrs. Kean's Room, circa 19th century



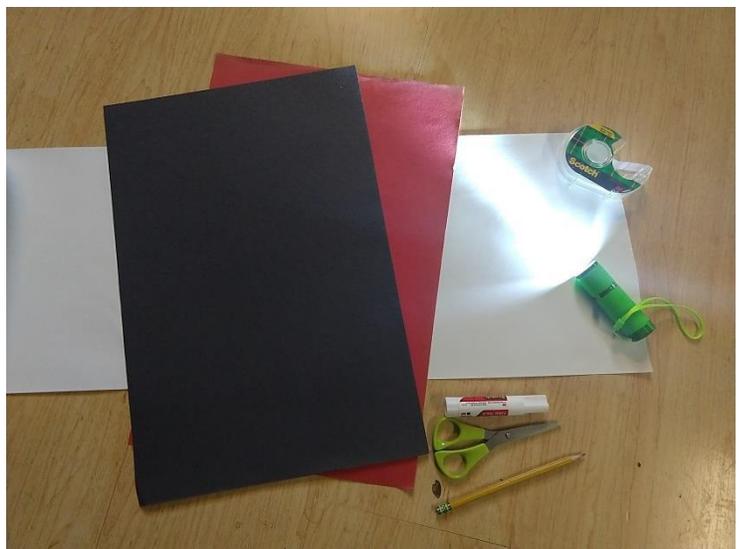
Silhouette of Christine Kean Griffin, circa 1860s

Make Your Own Silhouette

How would you like to make a silhouette? It's really easy; you'll only need a few things:

What you will need:

- Partner to assist
- Sheet of white paper
- Tape
- Two sheets of different colored construction paper
- Scissors
- Glue stick
- Pencil
- Bright light



Steps:

1. Begin by taping the sheet of white paper to a wall. This sheet of white paper can be any size. You can even use newspaper!
2. Sit or stand sideways in front of the paper. Use a strong moveable light source, like a desk lamp, and position it so that the shadow of your head appears on the white paper. Make sure the outline of your entire head is visible on the white paper. It may take a few minutes to adjust the light or the person being silhouetted to get this accomplished.
3. Hold still! Have your partner trace the outline of your head onto the paper.
4. Take the paper off the wall and use scissors to cut out the outline of your head. This will be your template.



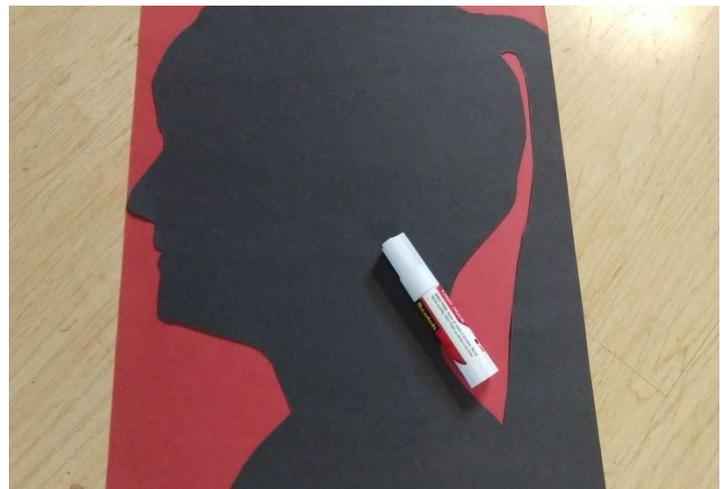
5. Trace your template onto one of the sheets of construction paper.



6. Using scissors, cut out the tracing of your silhouette.



7. Glue the silhouette to the other piece of construction paper.



Add-ons: You can customize your silhouette by using collaged, painted or drawn images for the background. You can also add collaged images inside the silhouette to show us what's going on inside that wonderful brain of yours! Please share your finished projects with us by emailing a photo to libertyhall@kean.edu

Want to do more?

- Read your favorite book about portraits and silhouettes! Some of our favorites include:
 - *The Gentleman and the Kitchen Maid* by Dennis Nolan and Diane Stanley
 - *The Art Lesson* by Tomie dePaola
 - Youtube Read Aloud: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9TUQ4F27HMo>
 - *Katie and the Mona Lisa* by James Mayhew
 - Youtube Read Aloud: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oY0L6yyYM90>
- Looking for other books?
 - Check your local library's digital collections
 - Free Audio Book Guide from Scholastic:
 - <https://www.scholastic.com/parents/books-and-reading/raise-a-reader-blog/free-audio-books-and-why-you-should-try-them.html>
 - Audible Free Audiobooks
 - <https://stories.audible.com/discovery>

Tag us on Social Media!

If you had fun creating your silhouette, please share your stories and pictures by emailing the museum or posting on our social media pages!

- Email: libertyhall@kean.edu
- Facebook: libertyhallmuseum
- Instagram: @libertyhallmuseum

The museum will be open again! Our doors are only temporarily closed. We cannot wait to see you and your family at Liberty Hall Museum soon!

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