

# Caricatures

## What is a caricature?

A caricature is a drawing or a painting of a person or thing in which the features and form have been deformed and exaggerated in order to mock the subject.

Caricatures became popular in the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> century and were created as satire to ridicule public and political figures. They are still used today, in magazine and newspapers, to poke fun at politicians and celebrities.

Apart from political and public-figure satire, they are used as gifts or souvenirs. If you've been to the Great New York State Fair, you've seen a lot of caricature artists, and probably have had a caricature made of yourself too!

Check out some of the caricatures in our collection!



HONORE DAUMIER  
French, 1808-1879  
**Assemblée Legislative No.22**  
lithograph on newsprint paper  
13 7/8 x 9 5/16 inches  
SUAC 1980.443



WILLIAM HOGARTH  
British, 1697-1764  
**A Chorus of Singers**, 18th c  
engraving on wove paper  
7 x 6 1/2 inches  
SUAC 2013.0184



AL HIRSCHFELD  
American, 1903-2003  
**Woody Allen & Diane Keaton**, 1983  
etching on wove paper  
13 x 10 inches  
SUAC 2014.0015



GILBERT 'GUS' BUNDY  
American, 1911-1955  
**Einstein Caricature**, 1932  
pencil on wove paper  
14 1/2 x 9 5/16 inches  
SUAC 1986.191

## Let's observe!

Take a careful look at the artworks.

Can you point out the features that the artists chose to exaggerate and distort?

Now compare the illustrations of Hirschfeld and Bundy to an actual picture of the person they drew.

Why do you think the artists chose to exaggerate the certain features that they did? If you drew a caricature of the same people, what would you do differently?

# Bring out your pencils!

Inspired by the artwork above, can you make your own caricature? You could make one of yourself, a family member, a friend, a celebrity, or even your pet!



Remember...

- If you can't have the person you're drawing in front of you, gather several images of them for reference! It will help you develop, both, the exaggeration and the likeness of your subject.
- Study your subject's features carefully and then, pick 2 or 3 features that you can distort from the normal size or proportion. Some things to pay attention to and draw on are: natural characteristics (ears, nose, eyes, etc.), any acquired characteristics (facial lines, stoop, etc.), and vanities (hair style, clothing, expressions, etc.)