



Jonathan Richardson the Elder, *Self-Portrait with His Son*, beginning of 18th c., sanguine, 29.9 x 40.9 cm, Montreal Museum of Fine Arts.

Jonathan Richardson the Elder (1667–1745) was an English artist, writer and art collector who focused primarily on portraiture in his paintings and drawings. Richardson saw this genre as a rich method of self-exploration, and produced a diverse range of portraits of himself and of his son, Jonathan Richardson the Younger (1694–1771). In this well-rendered portrait of the artist and his son, Richardson’s use of chalk on paper enhances the juxtaposition of the two faces. The heavy shading and line work of the older face contrast with the more illuminated face of the son. The positioning of the faces allows the viewer to observe the similarities between their features. While the son is gazing at the viewer, the father is looking pensively off to one side, seemingly lost in his own thoughts.

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