Diversity Portraits

Imagine a world where everything was the same, one kind of plant, animal, color, and human... that would get pretty boring, wouldn’t it? Thankfully, our world is very diverse! There are hundreds of different kinds of plants, animals, and colors. Humans differ in gender, beliefs, culture and skin tone – but at the end of the day, we are still all humans.

This activity is inspired by the illustrations from the book, “It’s Okay to Be Different” by Todd Parr. Create your own diverse masterpiece that highlights the different aspects of humanity!

1. Gather materials:
   - Acrylic / Tempera Paint (or watercolor, crayons, oil pastels)
   - Paintbrushes
   - Markers
   - White Paper
   - Pencil
   - Scissors
   - Masking Tape

2. Place a long piece of masking tape horizontally across the center of the paper. Then place 3 separate pieces of tape vertically across the paper to divide it into three equal parts. You should end up with 6 equal rectangles.
Fill a balloon with water so that it is about 5 inches wide.

On another sheet of paper, draw an outline of a face (including ears).

Color in the background of each rectangle with your paint or markers and make each a different color.

Cut out the face shape to create a template. Then use this to trace a face shape into each rectangle.

Do the same to each face. Then, let your paint dry.
7. Draw eyes, nose, mouth, hair and any other characteristics you want to add to each face with pencil. Make them all different and unique. Then outline each detail with your markers.

8. Peel the masking tape away to let the space in between your faces show.

9. Now look at each portrait. See how different they are from each other even though you used the same template to create them? Think of all the people that you know - your parents, siblings, relatives, friends, and classmates. How are they different from you? How are they similar?