

Woodrow Wilson High School



These masks were created by students from Woodrow Wilson High School, a District of Columbia Public School. Phillips Mentor Teacher Carole Huberman developed a “plaster surgery” project where students transformed plaster casts of their faces into Modigliani-inspired masks. Based on The Phillips Collection exhibition *Modigliani: Beyond the Myth* and related teaching resources, the class learned about Amedeo Modigliani’s life and art as well as his social milieu and artistic influences. They also created a classroom café and executed writing assignments.

The masks are interpretations of either Modigliani’s paintings, Parisian contemporaries, or historical influences. For example, the mask titled *Elena* is based on the museum’s painting *Elena Povolozky*. See if you can find masks representing the influence of African or Egyptian art, and those of Modigliani’s contemporaries, such as Diego Rivera and the artist’s lover Jeanne Hébuterne.



Ms. Huberman, a long-time art teacher, observed how the project brought the class together through collaborative work. These high school students were also able to overcome their own inhibitions about creating expressive art based on their own features.

Carole Huberman worked with the museum on our first ever mentor teacher program, having her students design masks based on their own features and inspired by The Phillips Collection's 2005 exhibition *Modigliani: Beyond the Myth*.



When Huberman was a graduate student in Washington, she enjoyed hanging out at The Phillips Collection. She still does. After working as an architectural historian for the Historic American Engineering Record and the National Register at the National Park Service, she took time off to be with her 3 children and volunteered extensively in their elementary school. It was at then that she realized she would like to be an art teacher. Huberman received a Master of Arts in Teaching and has been teaching art and AP art history for the past 12 years at Woodrow Wilson High School in Washington, where she chairs the Visual Arts Department. She lives with her husband in historic Washington Grove, MD and enjoys photography.