Little is known about the family shown in this portrait, except that they were wealthy and probably from the noble class. Signs of their wealth are shown in their expensive clothing, the young woman’s jewelry, and the hunting dog accompanying the eldest son.

This work is a great example of how artists create texture. Texture is the look and feel of a surface. Painters often focus on texture in their work to help the viewer imagine how something would feel: rough, smooth, bumpy, silky, hairy, sharp, etc. In the museum, we cannot touch the artwork but we can imagine how the objects depicted would feel if we were able to pick them up and touch them.

**TEXTURE**


**Describing Texture**

When describing texture we use many descriptive adjectives. What words would you use to describe the clothes in this painting?

Read these adjectives and find an example in this gallery:

- Shiny
- Slimy
- Damp
- Sharp
- Tight
- Furry
- Hard
- Soft
- Wooly
- Dry
- Bright
- Relaxed
- Bristly
- Bumpy
- Grainy
- Puffy

How would you describe the clothes you are wearing today?
Texture Illustration

Texture refers mostly to what we can feel; however, texture can be experienced as an illusion when it is drawn or painted. Imagine what objects in a painting would feel like if we were able to pull them out of a painting and touch them. In this extension activity, it is your turn to create an illusion of texture from something that you feel but cannot see.

Materials:

Brown paper bags
Objects with interesting textures (shells, foil, wrinkled paper, etc)
Drawing Paper
Pencils

Process:

1) Place the objects inside the bags and place one bag in front of each child.
2) Reach into the bag in front of you (without looking!) and then draw the texture of the object you touched.
3) Even if you figure out what the object is, you should try to draw how it feels and not the object itself.
4) After you have finished drawing, pass the bags and try the activity again with a different texture. Each student should have a chance to draw each texture.

This activity was adapted from Introduce Students to Texture educational unit designed by Matt Fussell, available on https://virtualinstructor.com