



Swiss Miss

A radical painter, engraver, and mixed-media artist, Swiss-born Alice Bailly explored various approaches to abstraction in France prior to World War I.



Self-Portrait, 1917

Take a closer look

Alice Bailly (1872–1938) was more interested in stylistic experimentation than in capturing her exact likeness in this self-portrait. She indicates her round glasses and bobbed hair, but transforms her torso and hands into elongated, faceted forms and dark outlines.

Something to talk about

Compare Bailly's self-portrait with Frida Kahlo's *Self-Portrait Dedicated to Leon Trotsky*, also in the museum's collection. What does each work tell us about its subject's physical appearance and personality? How are the artists' approaches similar or different?

Who knew?

In her early twenties, Bailly accepted a position as an art teacher. On her first day she suffered a panic attack—and quit instantly.

Alice Bailly, *Self-Portrait*, 1917; Oil on canvas; 32 x 23½ inches; National Museum of Women in the Arts, Gift of Wallace and Wilhelmina Holladay; Photograph by Lee Stalsworth

