



### 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 to *Self-Portrait Dedicated to Leon Trotsky* (1937) by Frida Kahlo (1907–1954), 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 20s, 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

