



Nose and Lips of Akhenaten  
Metropolitan Museum of Art  
Purchase, Edward S. Harkness Gift  
1926  
[www.metmuseum.org](http://www.metmuseum.org)

## Up Close and Personal – An Award Winning Intimate Video Portrait

Biennially, the National Portrait Gallery fosters a competition where artists around the country submit intimate portrayals of another human being – sometimes themselves. In the 2013 winning submission, Bo Gehring presented a “video portrait.” In this video portrait (<http://vimeo.com/61985871>), Gehring turns portraiture on its head by giving us a piecemeal portrait of George Zweig starting at his toes. With his intimate video, Gehring presents us with parts of George and each is given equal time and equal distance. Gehring’s egalitarian approach leaves us emotionally challenged. How do we understand George where time and space is equal for a scarf, pants, hands, eyes, mouth and an expanding and contracting stomach? We are left with equal slices of George that are hard to mentally stack into a human being. Paradoxically in Gehring’s video portrait, it is George’s choice of audio that endures throughout. George’s chosen music (“Suzanne” by Leonard Cohen) serves as a proxy for George’s voice and emotions. When George looks us in the eye and then turns away, it is “Suzanne” that helps us integrate our experience with him. We are reminded there is something special about the face, particularly the eyes, as we fix our gaze on George. But the genius of this work is to bring to our attention the myriad of other details of body parts, whose presence we no doubt register but do not consciously notice in our usual interactions.

By Robert R. Gerlits, MSW  
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## Psychoanalytic Takes on the Cinema views films through a psychoanalytic lens

Participants view a movie and hear a discussants view of the movie before joining the discussion. A new THREE FILM OPTION allows registration for all seven films or for a choice of any three films. ([More Information](#))

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