

B. THE PORTRAIT

A **portrait** is a **picture of a person**. It might be a drawing, a painting, or even a photograph. Portraits are usually done one of three different ways. They can be a **full-length view** of the person, they can include the **head and torso**, or they can involve **only the head**. The point of view is usually from the front or turned slightly to the side ($\frac{3}{4}$ view), but once in a while a portrait is done in profile.



Thomas Gainsborough, *Blue Boy*, 1770

The portrait shown here is full-length with a point of view directly from the front.

This painting is called *Blue Boy*. It was painted by an English artist called Thomas Gainsborough around the year 1770. Gainsborough was a favorite portrait painter among the high society of England. He painted both landscapes and portraits.

The famous *Blue Boy's* silken clothing is painted a bright blue. It has been said Gainsborough used blue because of a remark made by a fellow artist. The artist had claimed that blue was the most difficult color to use well. The English painter wanted to prove that he could paint well with all colors, including blue.