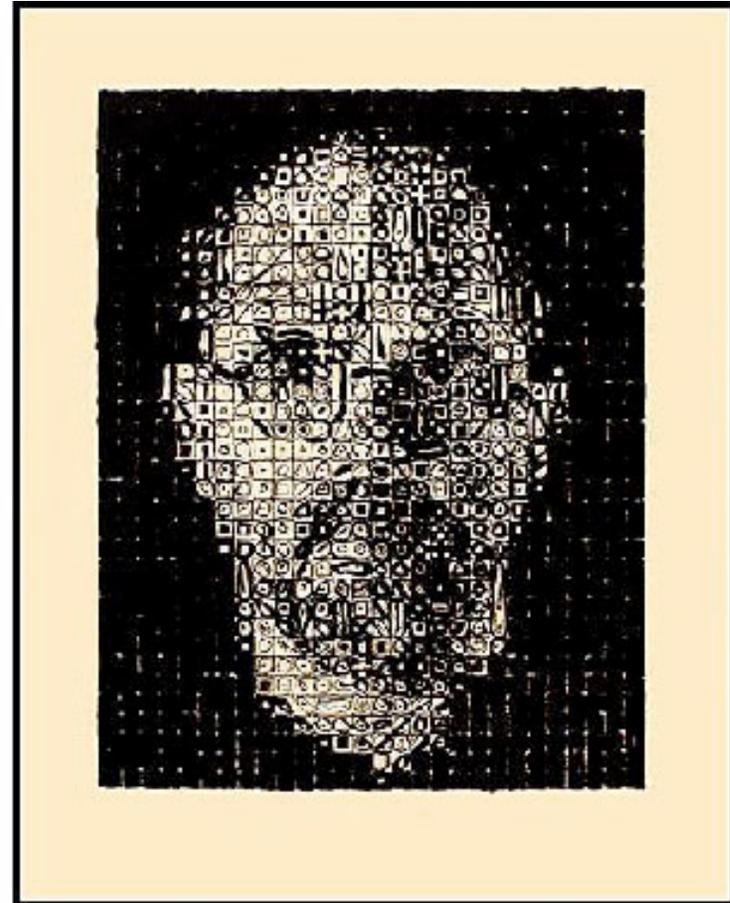
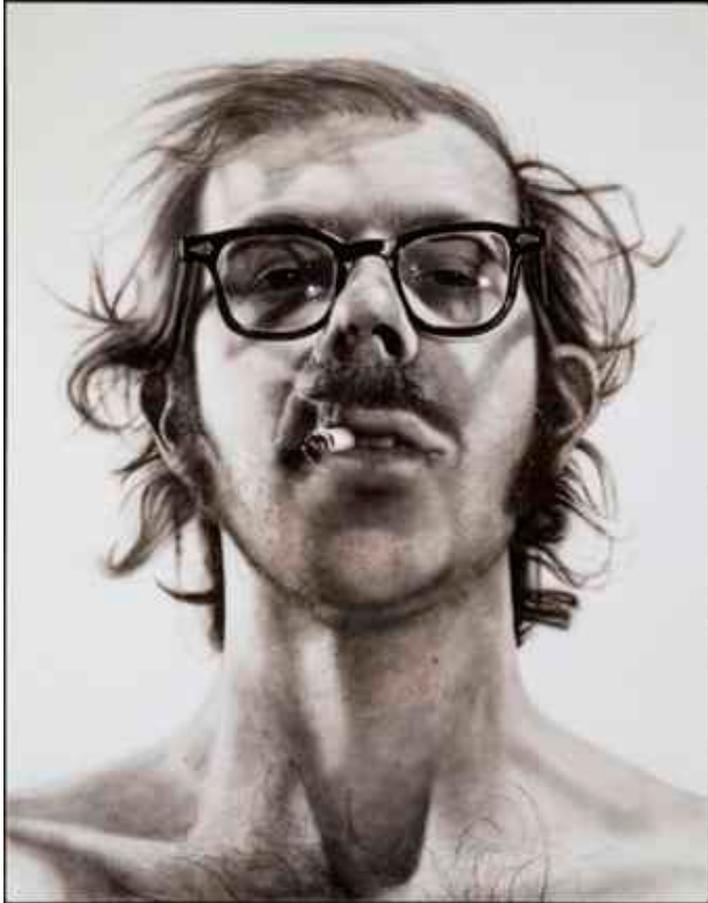


# CHUCK CLOSE



**Self portraits by Chuck Close done in 1968 and 1995**



**Bob**

**1970**

Chuck Close is an American artist whose career has followed a unique path.

Chuck Close was born in 1940 in Monroe Washington. He took an interest in Art early on in his life, attending drawing and painting classes at a local college.

He would go on to receive his B.A. in Art and his Master degree before the age of thirty. He gained early recognition by his painting done in the then radical style known as “photo-realist” Art.



**Chuck Close**

Photo-realist Art was the name given to a group of realist painters working primarily in the 1970's who produced work that attempted to present hyper realistic representations of the every day world.

Other prominent photorealist artists are/were:



Ralph Goings



Richard Estes

1972



**Audrey Flack**



**Duane Hanson**

**1977**

What these artists shared) was a desire to produce a realism that surpasses even a photographic quality of detail.

Close's painting centered upon portraits of friends and other artists



**“Frank”**

**by Chuck Close 1969**



**Detail**

By the late 1970's Close was to 'loosen up' his painting.

Where his early work was excruciating in its degree of detail, by 1978 he was to produce work which while still very realistic was less precise.

All of the photorealist painters relied on the use of the 'grid' to transfer and enlarge actual photographic images to canvas or paper.

By overlaying a grid over a photograph the image is broken down into a number of individual squares.



The artist then makes  
draws out a grid with the  
same number of  
squares on a canvas (or  
any support).

The artist then draws  
out the information,  
square by square from  
the original photo to the  
new support.

The new grid can be any  
size, so the artist can  
make the original  
information any size  
they wish.



Where in his early work Close attempted to reproduce every detail from the original photographic image, he began to manipulate the 'information' within each of the squares that together appear as a complete image.

In this work Close reproduced the image from the original photographic image using fingerprints made with an inkpad.



Chuck Close, *Georgia/Fingerprint I*, 1984-85, Direct Gravure



**Chuck Close used paper pulp to make this work.**

On December 7<sup>th</sup>, 1988 Chuck Close experienced a trauma that was to change his life.

While attending a ceremony celebrating his work he experienced a pain in his back, chest and arms. He quickly went to a nearby hospital where he suffered a seizure.

He was diagnosed as having a collapsed spinal artery which left him a quadpalegic, unable to move any part of his body below his shoulders.

Close could not leave the hospital for six months. Through physiotherapy he was to eventually gain some limited use of his arms and hands, but has not gained his earlier physical abilities.

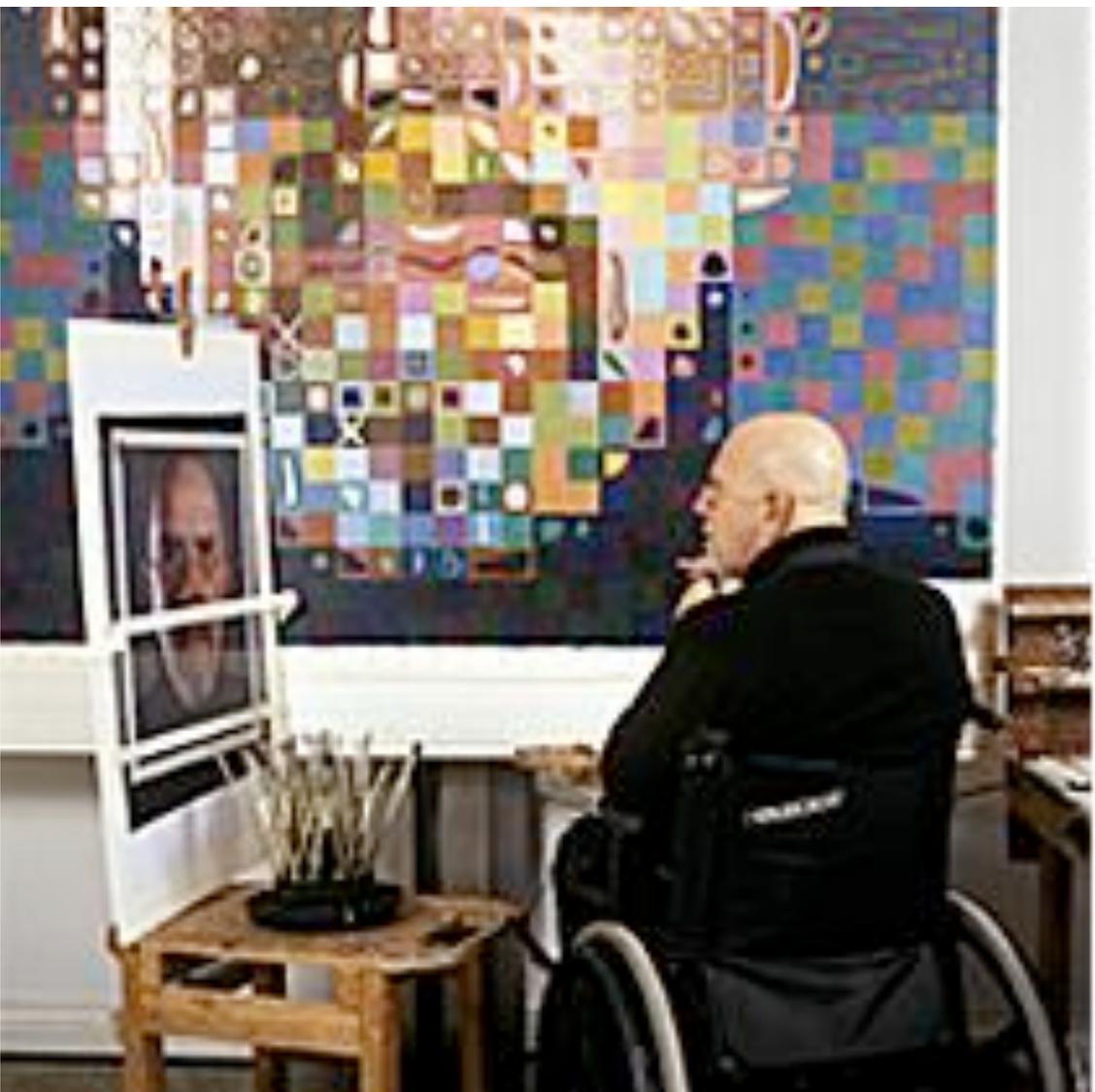
However, Close did not abandon his Art.

Within eight months he had adjusted his working method so as to be able to continue to make paintings.

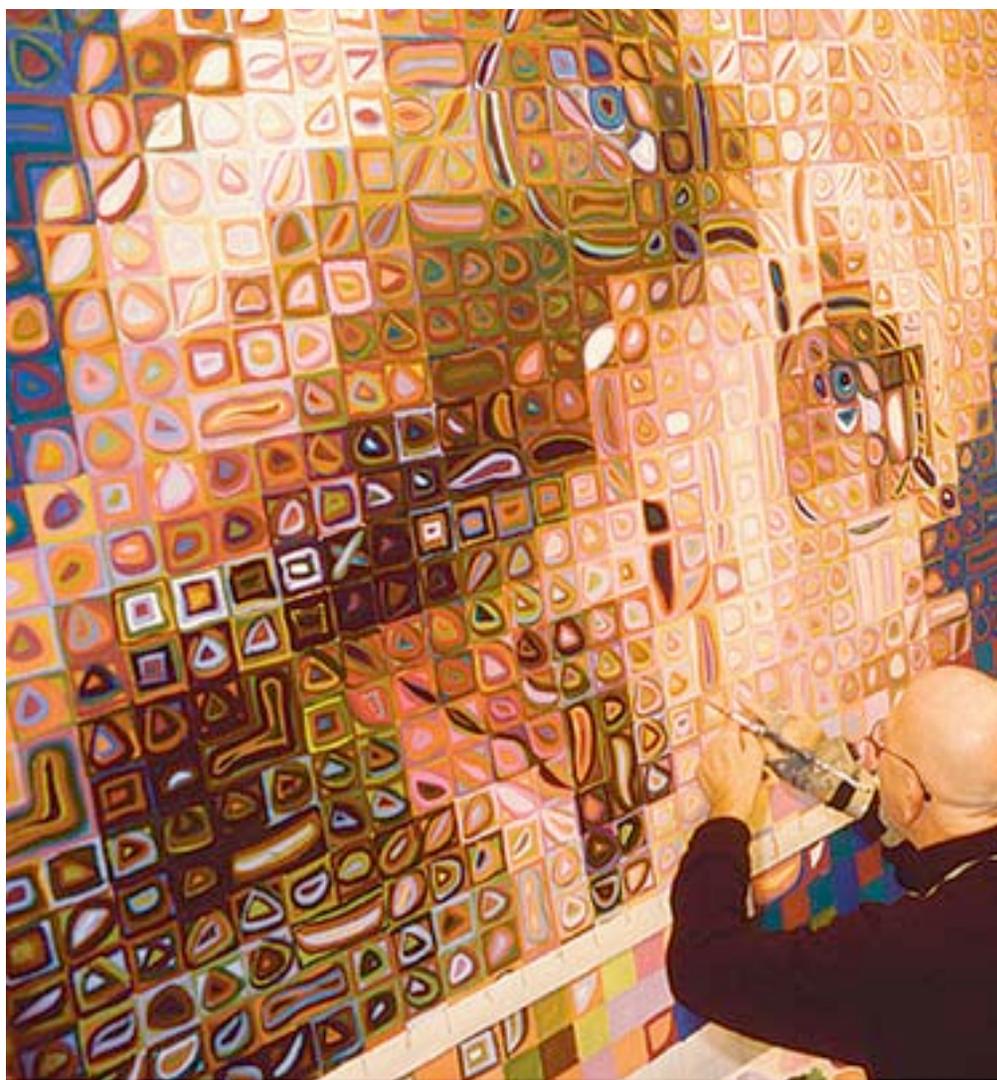
His first works after his trauma was to hold a paintbrush in his teeth and paint upon a gridded off canvas that was prepared by an assistant.

After some time he was to regain some movement in his hands and legs and now works with a brush strapped to his hand.

Due to his loss of a large degree of his dexterity, Close has developed a new approach, and thus new look to his Art.

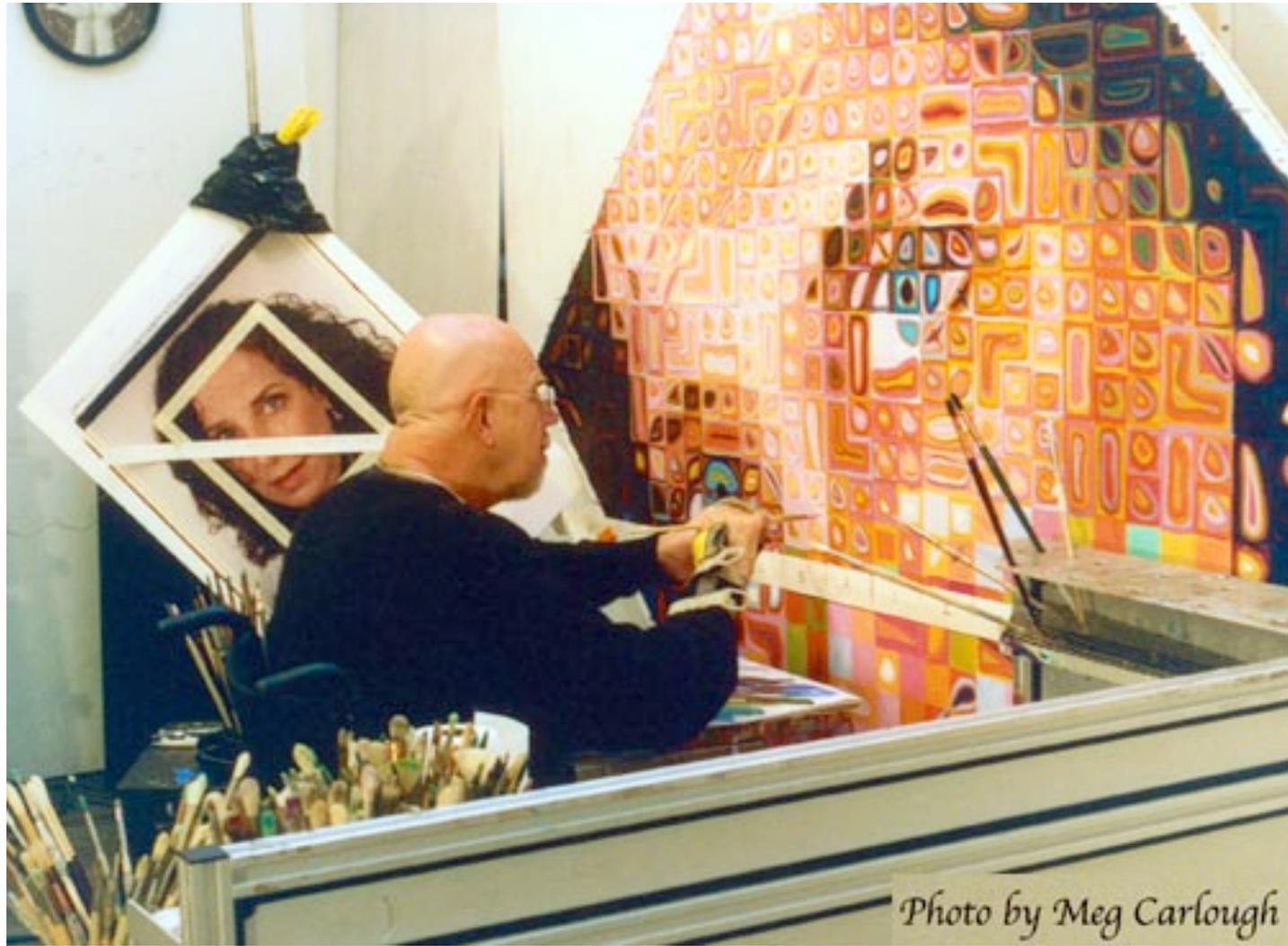


Michael Marfione



CHUCK CLOSE | WORK

CHRISTOPHER FINCH

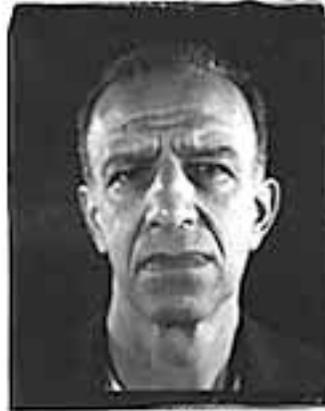


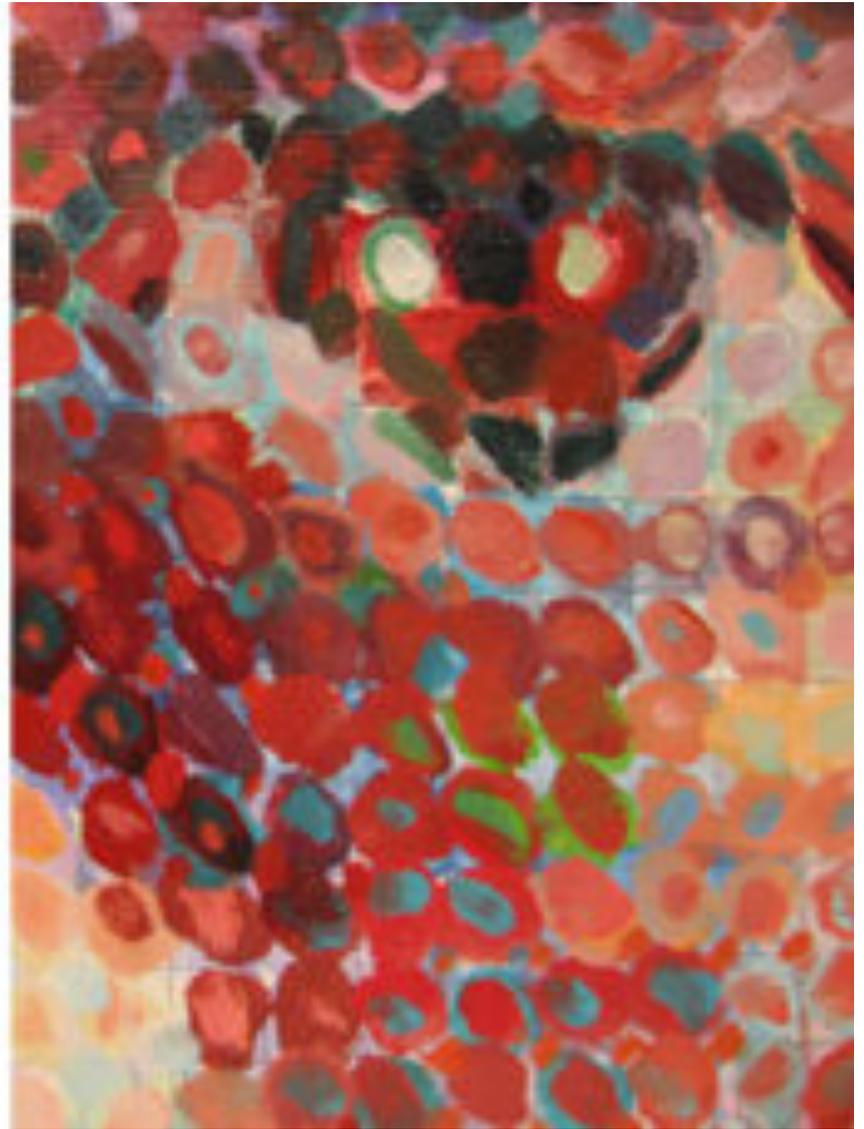
*Photo by Meg Carlough*

Each gridded square section in Close's new work is approached individually.

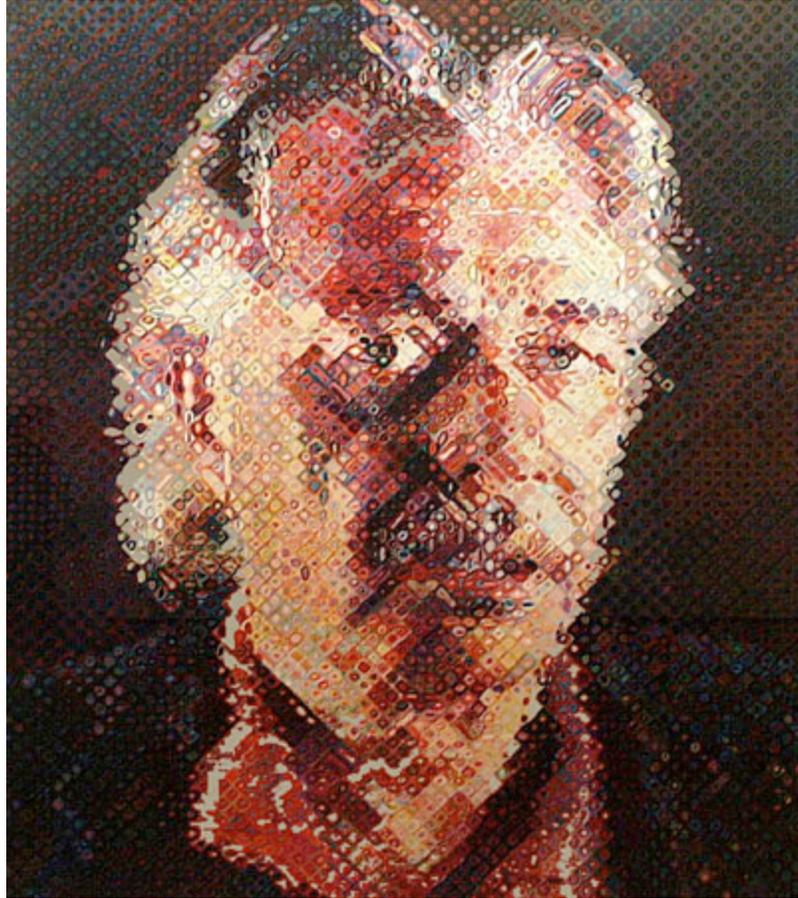
When one is close to his paintings, they appear as a sort of mosaic, a construction of individual elements.

But when seen at a distance the viewers eye makes them appear as a coherent image.





detail



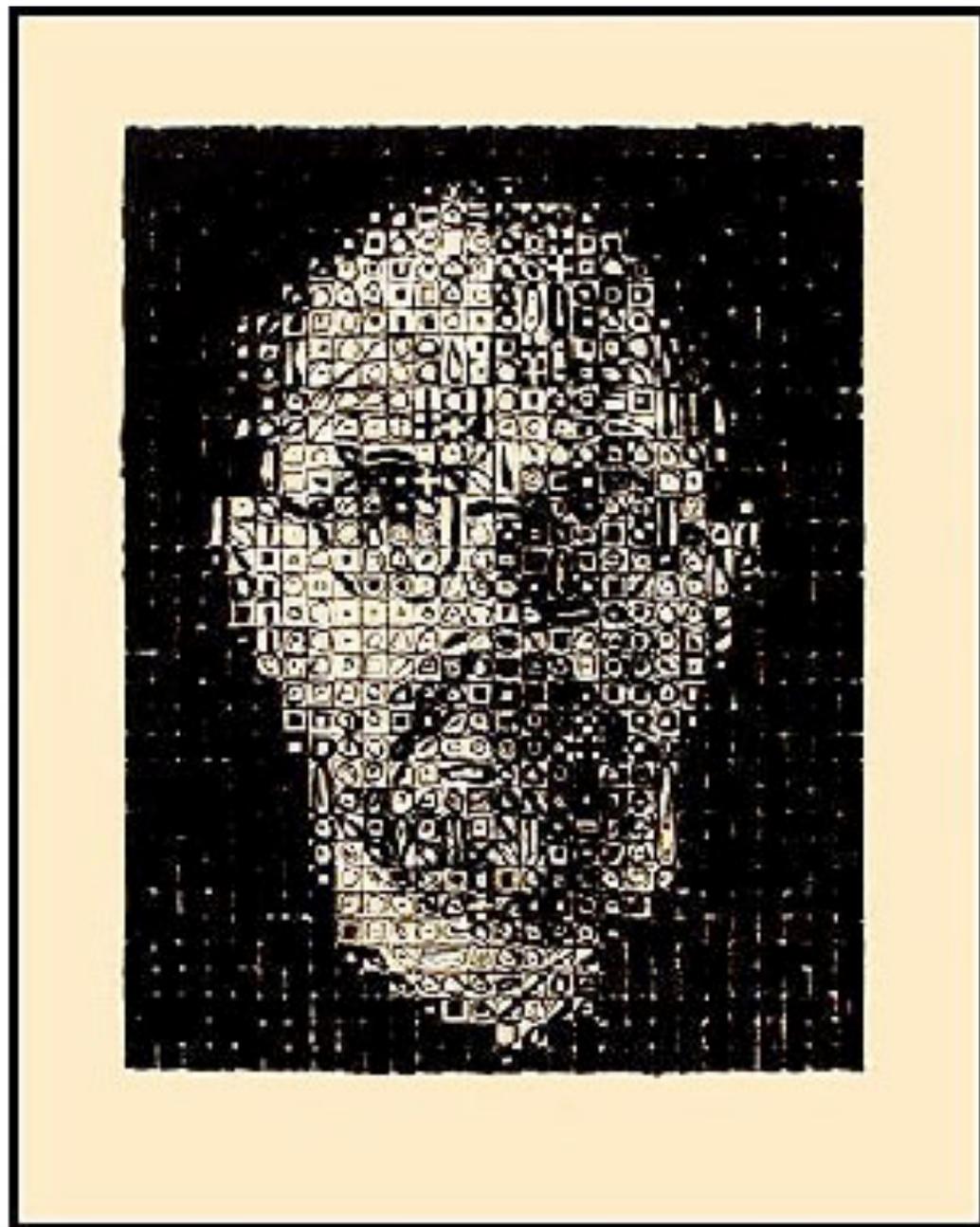
John

1997



**Chuck Close Self Portrait**





For our assignment we will employ Chuck Close's basic grid technique.

1) Choose a photograph. The choices I have provided should work well.

2) Place and tape onto place one of the sheets of "gridded" clear mylar, being sure to center them.

3) On one of the large "mayfair" paper draw out in pencil a grid with the same number of squares as the original. The original grid has one cm. Sections, the completed page has one inch sized squares.

4) Make a simple line drawing of the information onto the paper with a pencil.

5) Approach the drawing section by section. Look for the 'value' in each section. Try to reproduce the value you see in each section in the form of a simple design – try to think of each section as a small work of art on it's own.

6) One of the nice things about this assignment is that you can approach it with the degree of complexity that you wish.

Here are some  
examples of other  
students works.













