

FOCUS

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PHOTO © CHUCK CLOSE

ABOVE: **Chuck Close.**
Self-Portrait/Five Part.
2009.

EXHIBITION

Up Close

Nearly 100 photographs by Chuck Close are gathered for what's been called the first comprehensive look at the monumental artist's photographic work, on display in his home state of Washington, at Seattle's Henry Art Gallery. Close is perhaps most revered for his large-scale paintings, but he's based many of those works from the portraits he began shooting, in 1964. Those photos aren't regarded as mere stepping-stones to his eventual photo-based paintings (though he started calling them "maquettes" when he, with acrylic paint and airbrush in hand, would grid those portraits out on canvas). In a conversation with the museum director and art historian Terrie Sultan and the curator Colin Westerbeck, Close says, "I don't see [photography] as a lesser art form in any way, shape or form. It's different, and I like the fact that it's different." The exhibition, titled "Chuck Close Photographs," will showcase his daguerreotypes and composite Polaroids in addition to his other portraits and maquettes. The work is on view through April 2. —*Libby Peterson*

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