

Inner Self-Portrait is an art activity for children that explores the representations of identity through the elements of 2D composition. Using the quote from Dr. Seuss books “I am what I am, what a great thing to be” as a starting point, we will create a mixed media composition while analyzing the characteristics of different materials to create visual representations of self-identity. This activity is developed by Monira Foundation as part of our Discovering public program in connection with the photography work of John Chamberlain as well as our new exhibition *Inner Mirror*, featuring the photographs of Linda K. Alpern. Participants will be able to create and take home their own art projects, while learning about the work of the artists exhibited in our galleries.

PART 1:

Participants will listen to an introduction of the workshop as we explain the starting point “I am what I am, what a great thing to be” and its connection to our exhibitions and our project. Then, we will review concepts on art theory, art history, artists in the galleries and observe the variety of materials available for the project.

PART 2:

We will reflect on our own understanding of self-identity by asking ourselves: How do I see myself without using my portrait as a reference? A way of representing ourselves without using a portrait of our physical features is to create our Inner Self-Portrait through our five senses. We will create our own landscape (which could be based on a real image or not). A landscape that reflects our personality, our interests, a place we like to visit often, a food we like to eat, music we play or enjoy dancing to, a scent that takes us to this landscape, the feeling of the textures in it, etc.

OBJECTIVES / ACTIVITY OUTCOMES

- Basic knowledge and understanding of the representation of the concept of identity through the exploration of the elements of 2D composition such as color, shape and texture.
- Creative expression and imagination development through the design and production of an image of their own understanding of self-identity.
- Exploration and understanding of basic art theory and art history concepts.
- Learning about the artists and their work exhibited in our galleries.
- Creating original work through the use of mixed media.
- To value their own work as well as work made by others.
- Work on concepts of science content as they reflect on their self-identity through their senses.
- Practice critical thinking and problem solving skills to produce a final composition.

DOCUMENTATION REFERENCES & RESOURCES

- Book: *Happy Birthday To You!*, by Dr. Seuss.
- Book: *Art and How it Works: An Introduction to Art for Children*, by Ann Ka.
- Book: *Look, Listen, Taste, Touch, and Smell: Learning About Your Five Senses*, by Pamela Hill Nettleton
- Educational posters as support materials to discuss the Elements of Composition in Art - Color Theory

TOPICS /GENERAL CONCEPTS

- Self-Awareness: Identity / Self-identity, Problem Solving
- Art: Elements of Composition in Art, Art History & Art Theory concepts, Mixed Media compositions and processes
- Science: The Five Senses
- Geography and Landforms: Types of landscapes and other spaces

TOOLS / MATERIALS

- Paper of multiple colors and effects
- Metallic foil paper
- Craft fabrics of different textures and colors
- Metallic (silver) leaf sheets, sealer and adhesive
- Adhesive paper tape- multiple colors
- Glue stick, liquid glue & craft glue (for fabric)
- Scissors
- Pencil
- Crayons
- Brushes
- Acrylic Paint /Washable kids paint



ABOUT DISCOVERING

Discovering is a monthly program presented by Monira Foundation that welcomes the public into AYN Foundation long term presentations at Mana Contemporary to further learn and experience the practice of their featured artists through the scope of other artists and the multiple languages of art.



MONIRA FOUNDATION

Monira Foundation, an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit institution, functions as a radical experimental laboratory. Its aim is to spark, intensify, and promote an evolving cultural and social dialogue between creators, audiences, and institutions. Focusing on the unique potential of interdisciplinary work in a context distinct from the distracting pressures of academia and the market, Monira Foundation advances the practices and products of today's foremost artists, amplifying their contributions to communities both local and distant.