



## **SELF: Explorations of Identity**

### **Activities: Grades 3-5**

1. Artists tell stories through their art. Sometimes these stories show how the artists feel or what they think about something. These stories could also be about something that actually happened, a true story. Looking at the pieces in this exhibition, which pieces do you think tell a true story and which pieces do you think show the artist's thoughts or feelings about something?

#### **Activity:**

- Draw or build (using Legos, Play-Doh, etc) a true story from your life. Why did you choose this story? Why is it important to you?
2. Artists show a moment in time through their art. Take time to look at Brian Kershisnik's *Dead Mermaid*. What do you see? What does it make you think or how does it make you feel? What do you think is the whole story of this painting? As you look at other pieces in this exhibition, what do you think was happening before each moment was captured? What do you think happened after? Why did the artist decide to show us this particular part of their story? As we view art, we get to add our thoughts and feelings to the stories being told. We become part of the experience, part of the story.

#### **Activity:**

- Select a piece that you think tells an interesting story. Write a story using this piece as the middle of your story. What was happening before and what will happen after?

#### **Additional Resources:**

- Tell us a Tale, Teaching Students to be Storytellers, Scholastic:  
<https://www.scholastic.com/teachers/lesson-plans/teaching-content/tell-us-tale-teaching-students-be-storytellers/>
- Pixar in a Box, The Art of Storytelling:  
<https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/hass-storytelling/storytelling-pixar-in-a-box/ah-piab-we-are-all-storytellers/v/storytelling-introb>
- Biographies and Autobiographies for Kids:  
<https://shop.scholastic.com/teachers-ecommerce/teacher/genre/biography-autobiography.html>
- Video about artist Caitlin Conolly (3 min): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xuSZa-Gms-I>

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Utah State Core Standards:

#### **Visual Arts Standard Create**

Students will generate artistic work by conceptualizing, organizing, and completing their artistic ideas

#### **Writing Standard 3**

Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, descriptive details, and clear event sequences

#### **Language Standard 5**

Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings