



SELF: Explorations of Identity

Activities: Grades 6-8

1. The artists in this exhibition were invited to show pieces that they felt helped represent who they are, not only as artists, but as individuals. As viewers, when we explore this exhibition, we are invited to ponder our own identities. Michelle Franzoni Thorley's pieces *The Finding Process* and *Ancestresses - mi niñez* as well as *Pirated* by Elizabeth Sanchez are examples of how artists in this exhibition explore who they are or where they come from - their identity. What other pieces in the exhibition can you find that tell us about the artists identities? What experiences have you had that have helped shape you into the person you are today? What stories from your life would you want to share with others to explain who you are?

Activity:

- Select a piece from the exhibition that you feel helps tell your life story. Using your selected piece as an example, draw a story from your life that you feel has helped shape you.
2. The pieces in this exhibition are not only meant to show who each artist is as an individual, but to encourage us to connect with the art in some way. Spend some time looking at Ryan Moffett's piece *Starts in the Heart*. What do you see? What does it make you think or how does it make you feel? Art helps us draw connections from something inside of us to something outside of us. Select a piece with which you connect to in some way. What drew you to that particular piece? In what ways do you feel a connection to other artists or works in this exhibition?

Activity:

- Select one of the following words and find a piece in the exhibition that exemplifies that word. Write why you selected that piece. How does this piece portray your word? What drew you to that piece when thinking about this word? Look up definitions of words to help you gain a deeper understanding and connection

Words:

nostalgia	confusion	peaceful	judgement	isolate/isolation
vulnerable	intimate	pain	free	anxiety/anxious
seeking	humor	found	satisfied	tension/tense

Utah State Core Standards:

Visual Arts Standard Respond

Students will understand, evaluate, and articulate how works of art convey meaning for the observer as well as the creator

Visual Arts Standard Connect

Students will relate artistic skills, ideas, and work with personal meaning and external context

Language Standard 4

Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases

Language Standard 5

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

Additional Resources:

- Discovering My Identity at Teaching Tolerance:
<https://www.tolerance.org/classroom-resources/tolerance-lessons/discovering-my-identity>
- Elizabeth Sanchez Artist Journal: <https://www.elizabethsanchezart.com/artist-journal>
- Storytelling Oral Traditions, PBS:
<https://utah.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/echo07.lan.stories.lporaltrad/storytelling-oral-traditions/#.XoUW14hKiM8>
- Short documentary (5 min) about Ryan Moffett's MS diagnosis:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aEleLbkvc8E&t=33s>