

Jesse Rocha

Department: Art History

Making Art of Ourselves: Self-Portraits, Self-Expression, & Identity

Abstract: We know that the arts are crucial means of self-expression for students of all ages and stages of cognitive development. Despite this, we see a continuing trend of disengagement in the visual arts among students. Through this course module, students will learn about identity, self-expression, and one of its key manifestations: self-portraiture. By familiarizing themselves with formal analysis, students will engage with famous artworks through the eyes of an art historian, learning how self portraits have been successfully used to express one's' identity. This all culminates in a self-portrait drawing tutorial, where students will visually depict their own identities, taking on the role of the artist.

Target Audience: High School, Family Learning

Learning Objectives/Outcomes:

By using this Digital DIY Curriculum students will learn about self-expression, identity, and self-portraits as concepts, analyze formal components of artwork, create their own self-portraits, and ultimately feel inspired to see themselves as artists, and to participate in art and art history.

Jesse Rocha is a first-year graduate student at UCR, working towards obtaining his Masters in Art History. He graduated with honors and distinction from UC Berkeley in 2017, with a Bachelors in Art History. Subsequently, he worked in museums in San Francisco and Los Angeles. A Southern California native, Jesse's research focuses on highlighting the obscured art historical narratives of queer Latina/o and Chicana/o communities in the modern and contemporary period.

Gluck Creative Classroom Digital DIY files:

HA_Making-Art-of-Ourselves-Intro.pdf, mp4, pptx (identical information)

Activity:

- HA_Making-Art-of-Ourselves-Identity Interactive Worksheet.pdf
- HA_Making-Art-of-Ourselves-Self-Portrait Drawing Tutorial.mp4
- HA_Making-Art-of-Ourselves-Introduction to Formal Analysis Reference Sheet.pdf
- HA_Making-Art-of-Ourselves-Resources & Further Reading.pdf

Instructions for completing this Digital DIY Curriculum

1. Read or watch the Topic Presentation Visual Aid.
2. Complete the Identity Interactive Worksheet.
3. Watch the Self-Portrait Drawing Tutorial, following along and using the Identity Interactive Worksheet to help you complete your own self-portrait.
4. Read the Introduction to Formal Analysis Reference Sheet to learn more about formal analysis, its history, and things to look for.
5. Read the Resources & Further Reading sheet for ideas on lesson plans, activities, or more information on the topics covered in this plan.