

# THE WHO I AM PROJECT

## SOUS RATURE (UNDER ERASURE)

Language theorist, Derrida developed the concept of sous rature (“under erasure”) “is the act of writing a word and then crossing it out” (Dimitriadis & Kamberelis, 2006, p. 103). Titus Kaphar uses a similar technique in his art by painting over or cutting out sections of his work. Removing and obscuring parts of the picture alter more than just the image, but the narrative that they tell.

“I cut, crumple, shroud, shred, stitch, tar, twist, bind, erase, break, tear, and turn the paintings and sculptures I create, reconfiguring them into works that nod to hidden narratives and begin to reveal unspoken truths about the nature of history.”  
–Titus Kaphar

How can we use the concept of erasure to expose what is hidden or removed from our own identities? How does this relate to the concept that identities are about tension between self and others?

## ARTIST

**Titus Kaphar**  
Painter

“As is often the case in Kaphar’s work, what is unseen, unspoken, and not understood is given greater weight, emphasis, and voice than what was revealed, depicted, or captured in the original genre. Each piece in some way embodies both liminality, that place betwixt and between, and metamorphosis—whether it is from the second to third dimension, painting to sculpture, or figure to abstraction.”

–Stella Maria Baer (excerpt from Behind the Veil catalogue)

## ARTMAKING

### Selfies, Captions, #Hashtags

photography with text

### Instructions

1. Revisit the idea of erasure
2. How do these ideas of erasure apply to identity? Think about the unseen, unspoken, and not understood aspects of identity.
3. Take a selfie. Think about how you can apply erasure to your caption.
4. Post the pictures to Instagram using #WhoIamProject

Suggestions for photo editing apps visit:

<http://www.creativebloq.com/design-tools/best-photo-apps-513764>

<http://www.tomsguide.com/us/pictures-story/500-best-photo-editing-apps.html>

<http://iphonophotographyschool.com/photo-editing-apps/>

Repix

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/repix-inspiring-photo-editor/id597830453?mt=8>



Voiceless, Titus Kaphar. 2011.