

THE WHO I AM PROJECT

SELF PRESENTATION

“Self-presentation is behavior that attempts to convey some information about oneself or some image of oneself to other people. It denotes a class of motivations in human behavior. These motivations are in part stable dispositions of individuals but they depend on situational factors to elicit them.” The concept of self-presentation plays a heavy role in the world of social media. You might not always think about self-presentation while you’re cleaning around the house, but what about when you’re posting a picture of yourself on social media? Maybe you carefully select your posted pictures from a larger batch of photos. Or maybe you only approve posts that capture your “good side” or a well put together outfit? The concept of self-presentation plays a heavy role in the world of social media. For this lesson, you will take a pair of selfies that show both ends of the spectrum of self-presentation and confront how identity is a construction both public and private.

ARTIST

Mickalene Thomas

Mixed Media Artist

Mickalene Thomas explores notions of beauty particularly in relation to African American women with her photographs, collages, and paintings. Her portraits are informed by the long tradition of portraiture in western art history, the more recent pin-up images of the 1960’s and 70’s, and by her own mother, a former model, who often models for Thomas. They address questions of artifice, femininity, strength, and glamour.

ARTMAKING

Before & After Selfies

photography

Instructions

1. Take a picture of yourself right now, as you are, wherever you are.
2. Take a second picture of yourself as who you want to be. Use props, costumes, and makeup as necessary. Think about how you might use color, technique, and location to further express your identity?
3. Post the unedited selfie to Instagram using #WhoAmProject #before
4. Post the staged and edited selfie to Instagram using #WhoAmProject #after

Suggestions for photo editing apps visit:

Photo Decorate

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.vittee.photodecor&hl=en>

My Heart Camera

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/my-heart-camera-lovely-cute/id657224393?mt=8>



Din, une très belle négresse #2, Mickalene Thomas (American, b. 1971). 2012. Rhinestones, acrylic paint, and oil enamel on wood panel, 102 x 84 x 2 in. (259.1 x 213.4 x 5.1 cm). Private Collection, Boston.