

Self-portrait and Identity Brainstorm

“The exploration of inner space is what shapes each self, yet inner space does not exclude the outside. The inner remains in constant negotiation with the outer. That negotiation between yourself and other selves can only take place through the medium of Identity. Identity is the passport that you show to everyone who questions or challenges your presence in the world.

Identity is paradoxical term. It can mean either sameness (when you identify with somebody or something) or difference (your identity is unique to you). We try to define our identity in terms of the groups we belong to and geographical environments. We can also slice our identities: social self, emotional self, family self, tribal self, intellectual self, like layers of onion skin. Identity seems to be shifting and making complex patterns over time. The notion of a "real" self looks like a utopian construction.”

(The Identity Project, Beatrice Coron: <http://www.beatricecoron.com>)

1. In your own words, what is Identity?

2. In her Identity Project, Coron makes references to a concept of multiplicity in regards to our various “selves” (ie: social self, emotional self, family self, tribal self, intellectual self). Make a list of your various “selves”...

3. What do you value most? Do you have a passionate point of view about anything in particular? Make another list...

4. What are your biggest hopes for yourself and your future?

5. What are your biggest fears for yourself and your future?

6. What ideas would you like to explore and reveal about yourself through your artwork?

7. What kinds of symbolism could you use to communicate some of the above themes/ideas?

8. How can you tell a story about yourself through the use of visual imagery?

9. In your sketchbook, draw 3 thumbnails that explore a variety of themes for a self-portrait addressing your perception of your own identity.