

Strength Self-Portrait

Essential Question	How can we represent our strength through art?
Grade	1st
Time	60 minutes
Art Concepts	Symbols, self-portrait, drawing, patterns, collage
Materials	Two pieces of paper, pencil, colored pencils/crayons/markers, scissors, glue
Artwork in Focus	<u><i>El Mar de Las Desconocidas, 2017</i> by Judithe Hernandez</u>
Talking about Art	<p>Judithe Hernández is a Los Angeles artist and muralist who is Mexican American and an active member of the Chicano community. Much of her artwork includes images and themes of indigenous people and gender roles. Back in the 1970s when Chicano artists in East L.A. were beginning to organize, Hernández was often the only female artist at these meetings. She has painted many murals around the city.</p> <p>How would you describe the person in the painting?</p> <p>Often, Hernández uses symbols—images of things that represent bigger ideas—in her paintings. What</p>

do you think Hernández is telling us about this person through the fish?

What kinds of nature or animals make you feel strong and powerful?

Making Art

There are two parts of this project: a nature background and a **self-portrait**. We are going to start with the nature background.

1. Remember when I asked what kinds of nature or animals make you feel strong and powerful? Whether it's an animal, type of flower, plant or leaf, you are going to draw it all over a piece of paper. If you want, you can **draw** a repeating **pattern** (like rose, tulip, rose, tulip—or a leaf facing left, right, left, right—or, in my case, I drew birds with their wings up, down, up, down).
2. Color in your nature pattern.
3. Next, you will draw a self-portrait on a *separate* piece of paper. Just draw your face, neck, and shoulders. You can use a mirror or draw from memory. You can color in your self-portrait or not, it's up to you!
4. Finally, cut out your self-portrait and glue it onto your nature-pattern background.

Reflection

Look at Hernández's painting again. What does your artwork have in common with hers?

What does this artwork tell the viewer about you that a regular picture couldn't?

Write a few sentences about yourself, describing why you made the choices you did in your artwork.

Curriculum Connections California Arts Standards for Public Schools—Visual Arts

1.VA:Cr2.1: Explore uses of materials and tools to create works of art or design. 1.VA:Re7.1: Select and describe works of art that illustrate daily life experiences of one's self and others.

Common Core State Standards English Language Arts

SL.1.4: Describe people, places, things, and events with relevant details, expressing ideas and feelings clearly.

SL.1.2: Ask and answer questions about key details in a text read aloud or information presented orally or through other media. SL.1.5 Add drawings or other visual displays to descriptions when appropriate to clarify ideas, thoughts, and feelings.

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