



Educational Materials

Featured Artist: Liliana Guzmán

Dear Educators,

Thank you for your interest in the Strange Fire Collective educational resource materials. This PDF was put together to go along with the interview of Liliana Guzmán, published on May 19, 2022. The two documents included can be used in multiple settings and we hope they spark fruitful discussion and inspire you and your students to create dynamic art pieces.

Observe, Analyze + Make: This observational worksheet is designed to be used with children and adults ages 7 and up. It can be used in a classroom setting as a reference to guide discussion around Guzmán's series *Next to Myself*. Families can also use it together while looking at the images included with Guzmán's interview to help you look closer and think about the meaning of each artwork.

Create + Make: This project sheet is designed to be used with artists and students ages 13 and up. It includes a list of the materials you will need and a step by step guide to allow you to create a piece of artwork inspired by the style of Liliana Guzmán. There are even questions to help you or your students think about and develop the piece of art along the way. You may find it helpful in your classroom to begin with the observation worksheet before diving into this project.

For additional educational resources visit our website: <https://www.strangefirecollective.com/resources>

We want to hear from you! Tell us how you use these materials.

If you are able, please share images and a short narrative of how you used these worksheets with us at strangefirecollective@gmail.com. We are open to any recommendations and suggestions on how to further develop these materials.

Thank you,
Strange Fire Collective

Observe , Analyze + Make

an interactive guide to *Next to Myself*

Using this worksheet, you will reflect on the series *Next to Myself*.

Take a moment to look closely at each paintings and consider the choices the artist made and what they may mean...



About the Artist

Liliana Guzmán is an artist whose photographic practice incorporates a wide range of techniques and mediums from film photography and alternative processes to digital photography, painting and drawing. In *Next to Myself* she addresses themes of memory, identity, gender, storytelling, dreams, emotions, and facial expression through her unique process of layering photographs with drawings and painting.

Through this series, Liliana explores the multiple identities that all live within her. By using imagery of masks over faces, she considers the ways that people present themselves to the world but wonders about their true feelings they may keep hidden.

Observe

to notice

Select a piece of Liliana Guzmán's series, *Next to Myself*.
Before reading the title, title the piece yourself.

What title did you give the piece?

What colors do you see? Describe the color palette.

How many figures do you see? Where are they?

How are the figures using their hands?

Make

to create

On the back of this worksheet,
trace your hand using any writing utensil you
have access to.

Divide the hand into compartments and fill
each compartment with words and illustra-
tions that describe who you are and what is
important to **you**.

extra credit : Add color using markers, crayons
or even paint!

Analyze

to interpret

Choose a piece you are drawn to.
What emotions do you feel while looking at this photo painting?

What do the facial expressions that you see tell you about how each character is feeling in this scene?

The figures appear to be wearing masks. Why do you think that is? What emotion might be underneath?

Create + Make

a step-by-step guide to photo-painting

In this project you will explore your own identity by accessing a memory or a dream... You will create a self portrait and place yourself into that dream or memory by combining photographic techniques and painting.



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Materials

- Thick watercolor paper
- Acrylic or watercolor paint
 - Crayons or markers
 - Adhesive
- Camera to make your self portrait
 - Computer paper
 - Printer

tip:

a phone camera will work just fine!

Project Directions

- Begin by painting a scene on your thick paper using watercolor or acrylic paint. This will become the background of your final piece.

reflect: source your imagery from a dream or a memory. Where are you? How can you represent this space in a more abstract way? What colors might reflect your emotions in this imagined space?

- Take a self-portrait. You can set your camera on a self-timer, or you can ask a friend to take your photograph. Compose the photograph so you can see your entire body, from the top of your head to the bottom of your feet.

reflect: What was your body doing in the dream or memory that inspired your background? Reenact a pose or a specific gesture. How were your hands positioned? What was your facial expression?

Enjoy the performance element of creating your self-portrait. Let yourself access the memory or dream through the movement of your body.

- Print your self-portrait as a black and white image on a piece of normal computer paper. Allow your figure to take up the **entire** piece of paper.

- Once printed, cut out your figure and past it onto your painted background.

reflect: Where on the page will you place your figure? In the middle? Near the top or the bottom? Think about placement as part of the story.

- Paint and draw around and on top of your figure to incorporate the paint with your photographic image.

reflect: How does the paint and photo relate to each other? Draw or paint new clothing onto your figure. Perhaps this is a special outfit from an important event in your life or your childhood. Will your figure be wearing a mask? Experiment with using crayons and markers.

Title and sign your work of art !

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Share your artwork with us:  
Tag @strangefirecollective on instagram