

2. PHOTO-MASQUERADE

DURATION

90' to 150'

INTRODUCTION

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

This workshop aims to encourage youth to share their ideas about culture related to beauty standards and to try out to have a voice for a broader audience. Questions the ability and power of people to make choices about portrait image and selfies. Aims to raise awareness about manipulation in digital contexts and visual self-representation on social media. This workshop combines plastic expression techniques with digital photography manipulation technologies.

GOALS

- › To help youth to challenge beauty standards.
- › To raise awareness about how social media reinforces cultural standards.
- › To raise awareness about manipulation in social media.
- › To give opportunities to use digital tools to create and edit images.
- › To raise awareness about the relation between social media representations and self-identity construction.

PREPARATION

Before the activity:

- › Collect portraits images from historical and contemporary references. Don't forget to include images referenced to different cultural backgrounds and to manipulation. Please inform your participants in respect to images' copyrights.
- › Painting ink, cardboard, brushes or other plastic/artistic materials to develop the mask.
- › Prepare a private social media platform to share the participants' photographs (e-portfolio, padlet...).

Prepare the space/room:

- › Chairs and tables.
- › Internet access.
- › Video projector and a computer.
- › One smart phone per group of participants (minimum).

OPTIONAL: image edition apps

DIGITAL SKILLS

LEVEL 1: basic use of digital tools.

STEP BY STEP

10' to 15'	The facilitator asks participants to look at the collection of historical portraits and decide which ones are beautiful and which ones are ugly. After this decision, participants try to ANSWER the following questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">› Do the images of beauty all have something in common? What do they all have in common?› Do the images of ugliness all have something in common? What is it?› What are the differences between beauty and ugliness? Is it a colour? A certain shape? An expression? The choice of props or make-up?
30' to 45'	The facilitator invites each participant to choose one portrait of beauty or one portrait of ugliness. In a piece of cardboard, participants cut a blank mask, and compose a mask of beauty or a mask of ugliness, based on the portraits they have chosen. If the number of participants is high, they can work in pairs or in a small group of three. Masks can be developed in collaboration and participants may choose to do a combined mask (half beauty and half ugly).
5' to 15'	Once the participants have composed each mask (paint, draw, collage), they can take a photo of each other wearing the masks, mimicking the pose and posture of the original portraits or taking a body posture reinforcing one of the important elements of the mask.
15' to 30'	OPTIONAL: Participants can use PS Express or a similar app to make a collage against a background of their choice. OR, they can use PS Express or a similar app to make a collage against another portrait of their choice, and mix the two as Orlan did in American-Indian Self-hybridizations, 2005-2008.
30' to 45'	The facilitator asks participants to share their portraits, explaining choices (postures) and analysing them with all the group. Participants can use a private social network platform to share the results.

Ethics

The participants' works can be shared online with the consent of participants or it can be kept offline. For more on privacy and personal data protection, consult [Educator's Guide Part 1, point 4, p. 5](#).

Assessment

Here the facilitator can find resources to carry out the assessment of the workshop.

Description and reference links

Discussion topic on beauty standards:

<https://photoworks.org.uk/the-many-faces-of-self-care-marissa-chen/>

A study on "Photographic Representation of Women in the Media":

<https://www.ojcm.net/download/photographic-representation-of-women-in-the-media-a-case-study-of-the-post-5709.pdf>

"On Female Representation" by Susan Meiselas:

<https://www.magnumphotos.com/theory-and-practice/susan-meiselas-on-female-representation/>

Site officiel D'ORLAN:

<http://www.orlan.eu/works/photo-2/>