

Identity as a Creative Space
AKA Craft Your Magical Identity Being



Bunny Michael's "Spirit Creature" from their interview with Big Freedia for Broadly Hotline.

This workshop is geared toward gender variant kids under the age of 18 and their adults, however it is open to any age group and gender identity with or without their guardian. The purpose of this workshop is to explore the multitudes of features that make us who we are in a creatively liberating way. Attendees will leave with art that describes how they see themselves and with tools to converse

I think of my gender transition as not just being the two years before coming out, but as being my entire life prior to that liberation. For a long time I felt as though I needed to present a certain way, or have certain interests, or have certain friends, etc to be understood in the queer scene and in my non-binary identity. I drove myself crazy to fit into the "queer" box, only to realize that the pursuit was antithetical to my personal interpretation of being gender non-conforming. I see myself as having multitudes of identities within me.

In this spirit, I want to host a workshop that blends my passion for leading family artmaking with conversations about identities. I think this will be a fun way to open discussions about what our identities mean to us in a safe space.

The workshop will be broken into three parts:

INTRODUCTION

- Conversation about what identity means (10 mins)
- Brainstorm about the characteristics that are a part of our identity (10 mins)

ACTIVITY

- Create your true internal creatures with an assortment of materials (paper, glue, colored pencils, crayons, clay, etc) in pairs (20 mins)

CONCLUSION

- Share your creatures and what led you to create them with the group (20 Mins)
- Final notes and goodbyes

A lot about what makes conversations surrounding gender identity difficult is that many of these emotions don't have a direct language translation. There is a reason that each year it feels as though there are new words created to describe different identities. It's the feeling of flux and malleability that leads us to come out. My hope with this workshop is that through putting these feelings into visual imagery, we are able to more eloquently describe this flux phenomenon to the people closest to us.

I'm very excited about what artmaking between kids and their guardians can bring into their relationships. I've been able to see so many wonderful conversations emerge between pairs at the Childrens Museum of the Arts, and I'm excited to see what these conversations could look like when centered around gender variance and identity for queer youth. It would give them a chance to speak up for themselves without having to have the words yet, which from personal experience, is the hardest part for me when I'm having difficult conversations. I don't always have the proper vocabulary, especially when I'm nervous or feeling pressure to be convincing. Showing my parents my art has been a far more engaging and effective way to describe my worldview and identity to them.



Kirsten Lepore's "Hi Stranger" may be my true identity creature.
My Timeline for planning the workshop is as follows:

Week 1 - Create personal example of identity creature.
Week 2 - Gather materials and external examples from artist friends.
Week 3 - Present!

Here is one example of an identity creature I created:
<https://vimeo.com/319184672/62692aec2d>

I feel as though this defines my love for the playfully macabre, my internal fluffiness/loyalty to those I care for, my mix of masculine and feminine, and my love of the color blue.

My Budget/Material List is as follows

Material	Cost	Link	Notes
Construction Paper	\$0		Provided by CMA
Markers/Crayons/Colored Pencils	\$0		Provided by CMA
Glue	\$0		Provided by CMA
Cardboard	\$0		Recycled from ITP
Clay	19.99 * 2	https://www.amazon.com/Sago-Brothers-Modeling-Molding-Colors/dp/B00RF7A1TG/ref=sr_1_3?ie=UTF8&qid=1550931591&sr=8-3&keywords=modeling+clay	

Total Cost: ~ \$40.00