

PHOTO 2 VEILED SELF-PORTRAITURE

Self-portraiture can be standard (formal or informal), surrealistic and/or conceptual. For this project, I am asking you to push the idea of self-portraiture further than you did in your Photo I class.

Objective: Create two self-portraits of yourself. One, wearing a “veil” that conceals part of your face to reveal more about your understanding of culture or identity. Another, concealing another part of you. Your choice.

What to consider:

What is the social function of a veil? For this project, you will create a self-portrait in which you *conceal* part of your face in a way that reveals something more about your identity. Veils here can include the literal veil of various face-coverings to the conceptual veils of gender identity and online personas.

CENTRAL QUESTIONS:

- What is the social function of a veil? Who wears them and why?
- How do contemporary artists conceal and reveal parts of an image to address culture and identity in naturalistic portraiture?
- How can a self-portrait image conceal parts of the face in a way that reveals more about the artist’s identity?

SOME SUGGESTED METHODS FOR SELF-PORTRAITURE:

Use a mirror:

Position yourself with the camera (although seemingly simple, this can be quite difficult to do well, as the camera is always visible and the reflected image presents depth of field issues—also, the mirror must be clean!)

Use a self-timer release:

Set up the camera, set the button, position yourself and wait for the shutter to release (can be difficult to control, although the unexpected element can be wonderful)

Hold the camera at arm’s length:

For film cameras, a tripod may be necessary; try to guesstimate the focal range, position the camera, reach and shoot (complete uncertainty about focus and composition)

Have an assistant:

Have someone else take the photograph with your dictated instructions (collaborative concept: the concept or idea is as important as the aesthetic result)

Use found objects, other people or appropriated imagery:

Allow something or someone to represent you (conceptual or surrealistic approaches can provide insight into the life and mind of the artist rather than physical resemblance)

REMEMBER: It is very difficult to look closely at oneself. This makes self-portraiture a struggle for any artist. Some succeed and some do not. The fun is in the trying. For this assignment, Make a veiled self-portrait using two of the following

Costume

Multiple exposure

Mixed media

Subject blur

Found object

Make-up

Silhouette

Shallow depth of field

Body position

Contrast / Focal Point

Veiled Self Portrait - Rubric

1. BASIC SKILLS and PROCESS

_____25 = Fully-engaged: Completed all writing & photo components w/effort & energy. Student was willing to experiment and take risks.

_____20 = Engaged: Completed all writing & photo components with some effort and energy, minimal experimentation and risks taken.

_____15 = Superficially engaged: Completed writing & photo components with some distraction or limited effort, no risks taken.

_____10 = Not engaged: Writing & photo components not completed or done with much distraction or resistance, no risks taken.

2. CAMERA TECHNIQUE & POST PRODUCTION (PHOTOSHOP)

_____25 = Student has a complete camera control (focus, white balance, aperture, shutter speed) & excellent technical execution in Photoshop.

_____20 = Student has good camera control (focus, white balance, aperture, shutter speed) despite minor problem areas in Photoshop.

_____15 = Camera control (focus, white balance, aperture, shutter speed) and Photoshop execution is inconsistent and needs work.

_____10 = Technical execution in camera and post-production (Photoshop) is highly inconsistent.

3. ARTISTIC INTERPRETATION

_____25 = Unique, Expressive, and original approach to veiled self-portraits. Excellent and deliberate use of lighting and composition.

_____20 = Unique and original approach to veiled self-portraits. Good use of lighting and composition, but lacks some technique.

_____15 = Approach to assignment is repetitive and straightforward. Work lacks consideration of lighting and/or composition.

_____10 = No evidence that the student explored different approaches to the assignment. Photographs are unoriginal and uninspired.

4. BLOG SUBMISSION

_____25 = Photographs and/or writing is submitted in a gallery on the blog and is captioned appropriately.

_____20 = Photographs and/or writing is submitted in a gallery on the blog but is missing appropriate captions,

_____15 = Incomplete project is submitted to blog (Student has completed at least 75 percent of assignment)

_____10 = Incomplete project is submitted to blog (Student has completed less than 50 percent of assignment)

TOTAL PROJECT GRADE: _____ / 100 points

LATE or UNFINISHED _____