

Workshop Plan for Ferens Art Gallery

This workshop uses ideas from the installation art piece, *Mirror*. The exhibit explores idea of self-esteem and personal identity and is based on the story of the Little Mermaid. In this story, the mermaid gives up being who she is and becomes a human in order to try and woo the prince, who she is in love with. But every step she takes is like walking on broken glass. Not only this, she never does marry the prince and she loses herself, becoming the foam of the sea.

Activity 1

In the gallery you will find two photocopies for you to draw on, one with a mermaid outline, and one with a prince. Use the mermaid sheet to draw a picture of how you see yourself – ‘who am I?’ Use the prince sheet to draw pictures of ‘who would I like to be?’ There are some laminated collages showing different famous people, words and pictures from newspapers and magazines to give you some ideas of what you might like to draw.

Activity 2

What better way to show who you are than a self portrait? In the gallery you will find some mirrored card cut into the shapes of old fashioned hand-held mirrors. If you look at them, you will see your face. You can use a pencil to press into the surface of the mirror, tracing exactly what you see in the mirror to create a picture of yourself.

Activity 3

In this activity we are going to make a large group piece using the idea of broken mirror. Cut yourself a piece of mirrored card - you can choose what shape: perhaps a neat triangle, or a jagged shape, or a rectangle. Remember that when you are breaking mirror, it never breaks in soft or curly shapes – always in straight lines.

Next, choose some pictures from the acetate photocopies that represent who you would like to be. Cut them to fit your broken mirror shape and use the double-sided sticky tape to fasten them onto it.

When you have made your mirror piece, please hand it in to Shaeron, the artist, who will assemble it with everyone else’s pieces to make a large frieze.