

LOOKING_GLASS SELF

Looking-glass Self
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Sahar Koloushani
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ABSTRACT

In the digital age, most of the people are depended by social media and they use their cellphone more and more every day. They are taking photos and sharing them in platforms like Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter in order to know what other people think about them. Moreover, people change their appearance, their behavior, and their environment based on the numbers of "Like" and the comment that they receive the cyber platforms. Based on the "looking-glass self" concept, individuals will change their behavior and appearance based on other people opinions, even if not necessarily true. In this way, social interaction acts as a "mirror" or a "looking-glass," since one's sense of self and self-esteem is built off of others. This project is a déjà vu of the "post neo cubism" murals to represent "looking-glass self" concept and it called as same name as its concept. Cubism and synthetic cubism as the antecedent of post neo cubism are applied in this project in terms of using different material and transferring the sense of reality. Moreover, the Looking-glass self is a déjà vu of post neo cubism with due attention to the form that material collated or put next to each other and build the line and angles as same as post neo cubism murals. Besides, it shows the diversity in human expressions and feelings.

This project includes seven pieces of woods in the size of cellphones, collage mirrors, pictures, and leather. All piece represents a cellphone that has a piece of a mirror, a picture, and leathers in the different positions. Furthermore, the aim of the project is to illustrate the "looking-glass self" concept, show how the digital age has had effects on peoples looks, and finally remind them that their beauty is not what others think about them.

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Jacques Marie Émile Lacan (1901–1981) was a French psychoanalyst and psychiatrist. His first official contribution to psychoanalysis was the “Mirror Stage”. The “Mirror Stage” is a concept based on the belief that infants do not have self-identity until they recognize themselves in a mirror (literal), or other people reactions towards themselves.

Social interaction performs an important role in order to understand ourselves. In addition, according to sociologist Charles Horton Cooley (1864–1929) an American sociologist, people develop their concept of self by observing how they are perceived by others, a concept Cooley developed as the “looking-glass self.” This process, particularly when applied to the digital age, raises questions about the nature of identity, socialization, and the changing landscape of self.

The looking-glass self describes the process wherein individuals base their sense of self on how they believe others view them. Using social interaction as a type of “mirror,” people use the judgments they receive from others to measure their own worth, values, and behavior. According to *Self, Symbols, & Society*, Cooley’s theory is notable because it suggests that self-concept is built not in solitude, but rather within social settings. In this way, society and individuals are not separate, but rather two complementary aspects of the same phenomenon.

According to *Society in Focus*, the process of discovering the looking-glass self occurs in three steps:

1. An individual in a social situation imagines how they appear to others.
2. That individual imagines others’ judgment of that appearance.
3. The individual develops feelings about and responds to those perceived judgments.



With due attention to “Mirror Stage” and “looking-glass self” concepts, judging ourselves based on other people opinion is a behavior that has had root in our entire life. The rise of social media makes the process of the looking-glass self infinitely more complex. Platforms like Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, and the like make it possible to connect with others in ways never before imagined. However, this exposure has led to an ever-increasing number of “mirrors,” thus comparing ourselves with others, proposing new questions about the development of self, changing and shrinking away from our true self.

In this project, I decided to make a déjà vu based on “looking glass self” concept. I get inspired by the cubism, synthetic cubism and post neo cubism style and get used of collage method to illustrate this concept.

Cubism was an influential visual art style to representing reality invented in the early twentieth century by artists Pablo Picasso and Georges Braque. Cubism opened up almost infinite new possibilities for the treatment of visual reality in art and the subject of the picture was usually discernible, then it was the starting point for many later abstract styles. In cubism, by breaking object and figures down into different scopes or planes the artist aimed to show different viewpoints at the same time and within the same space.

Picasso and Braque in their works frequently combined representational motifs with letters. Their favorite motifs were still life with musical instruments, bottles, pitchers, glasses, newspapers, playing cards, and the human face and figure.



Le Rêve by Pablo Picasso

In the Looking-glass self project, I am inspired by cubism in order to use different objects with different viewpoints which each of them represents their special meaning. Moreover, synthetic cubism is a style that I get inspired by. In synthetic cubism, the painters attempted to give a sense of reality to their painting. In the following synthetic cubism is described in more details.

Synthetic cubism is the later phase of cubism, generally considered to date from about 1912 to 1914. It resulted from a departure from very techniques, in an attempt to create something more real. Picasso, Braque and the painter Juan Gris added a vibrant range of colors back into their works, reintroduced depth, and diminished the number of simultaneous perspectives and planes in their imagery. Most importantly, in order to give the ultimate sense of reality to their paintings, they started adding paper, cloth, newsprint, text, and even sand and dirt to their works, attempting to bring a total sense of their subject's essence into play. The inclusion of real objects directly in art was the start of one of the most important ideas in modern art.



Synthetic Cubism - Picasso's Collage

A collage in Synthetic Cubism may include newspaper clippings, ribbons, bits of colored or hand-made papers, portions of other artwork, photographs and other found objects, glued to a piece of paper or canvas.

The Looking-glass self project includes collaged mirrors, pictures, and leather. By using these elements, I wanted to initiate my project as real as I can. Furthermore, I get encouraged by post neo cubism style and the elements in the project cut and arranged like the post neo cubism style. The project is a déjà vu of post neo cubism murals in small size and usage of real elements due to the synthetic cubism. In the following Post Neo Cubism is described.

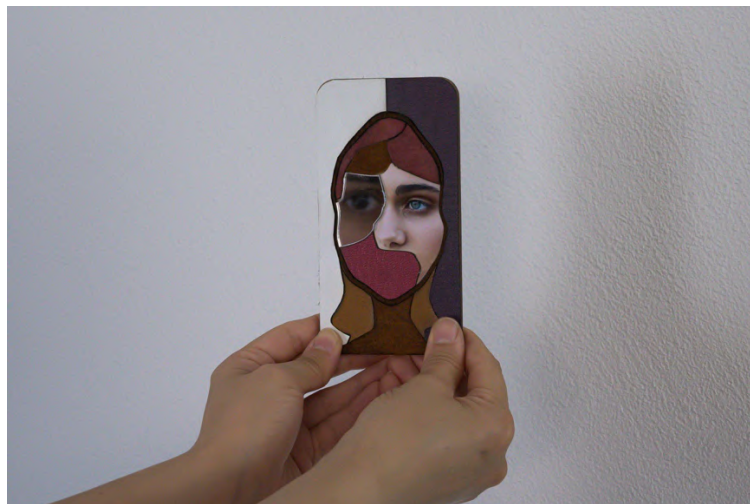
Post Neo Cubism is a style in which the artist combines cubism with hyperrealism. This style was invented by Miguel Angel Belinchon Bujes (Belin). **Belin implements perfect shapes, lines and multiple angles around faces and bodies which make a sense of variety in human emotions and feelings.**



Post Neo Cubism Art, a combination of cubism, pop art and realism to create paintings and street art.



In the “looking-glass self” project which made of seven pieces in the size of a cellphone, five pieces include a collage of mirror, a picture, and leather. Firstly, the mirror uses to reflect individuals’ true selves in the mirror, cellphone or a digital platform. Secondly, photos use as a version of individuals that a person chooses to present on a digital platform or the pictures of others that are observed in social media and compared. Finally, the leathers represent individuals’ appearance and or environment that had changed based on the opinion of the other and put the individuals’ away from their true selves.



In the following there are the pictures of five pieces which illustrates an individual that had changed his or her appearance and a reflection of a facial item that he or she may compare with others, change, or accept it.



The first piece of the project with the focus on the **eyes** of the spectator.



The second piece has focused on the **skin** and its color.



This piece has focused on the eyebrows of the spectators.



The fourth pieces with the focus on the lips.



The fifth one with the focus on the nose.

Furthermore, the sixth pieces of the Looking-glass self project include a piece of leather and a sentence on it which written with mirror. Moreover, the leather shows the social media world which everything is unreal or had changed in a way and the sentence shows a fact that everyone must know and be aware of the fake world of social media.



The sixth piece which shows the sentence "YOU ARE THE BEST VERSION OF YOURSELF" and transfer the meaning of self-awareness and liking true self.

Finally, the last piece of the project is a simple mirror that represents the true individuals' selves and the image that everyone must accept and like.



The last pieces which in all of the collaged pieces were put away and the spectator can see his or her true self. As the individuals must accept their true version as the best one.

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