

Materials and Meanings

Like an artists or writer, can you thoughtfully choose the materials and the artistic form that add the most meaning to your own work?

1. PERCEIVE

Work through the PERCEIVE card to carefully investigate your artwork. Read the EXPLORE MORE card.

2. CONSIDER

Notice the materials that Barroso chose. Think about his choice to use cedar wood like in cigar boxes. How is that connected to his Cuban identity and experience? Are there any materials that you think are very “American?” What materials, including those not usually thought of as art materials, would make a meaningful connection to your identity? Glass? Silk? Baseballs? Chocolate?

3. CREATE

Write a brief explanation of your choices. How do they connect with or reflect your identity or personal story?

Working from a digital image of your face, draw, digitally manipulate, or collage a self-portrait of your whole body. Create the look and texture of the materials you chose as meaningful to you. Think about how you will pose your body. What meaning might that communicate? What other details could add meaning? Are there symbols you identify with?

4. REFLECT

Reflect upon and share your image and explanation of material choices with others. Look back at Barroso’s work. Did you do anything else that is visually similar to his work? What will someone learn about you by looking at your self-portrait? How much does your choice of materials add to the meaning?

CHOOSE ANY ARTWORK

Credits

Materials and Meaning is related to Spiral Workshops Cool Curriculum. See <http://spirial.aa.uic.edu> for more ideas.