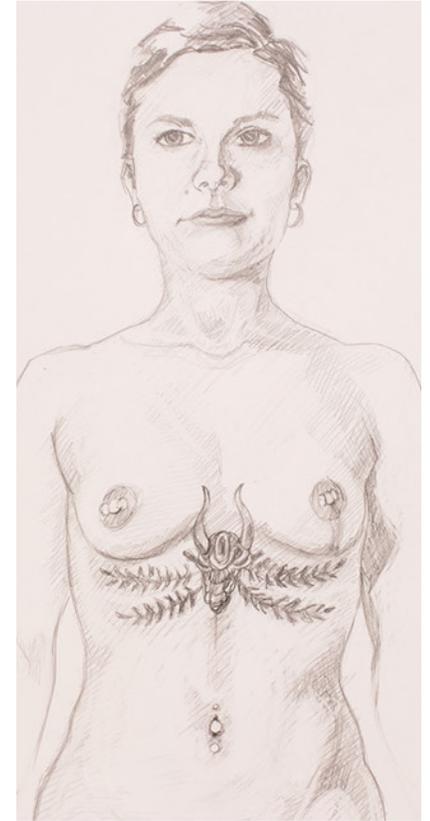


“The Ipseity Project” Zoë Charlton, 2018



Zoë Charlton uses the concept of the doppelgänger to examine issues of in/visibility in our society. In her definition, “a doppelgänger can be historical or ancestral—someone who... embodies you but isn’t exactly the same.” Charlton has long been interested in look-alikes and the idea of someone—or something—as a “stand in” for another person. The Ipseity Project was inspired by an African female sculpture that Charlton acquired from an antique store. The five-foot-tall sculpture is Charlton’s exact height and has other physical likenesses to the artist. Installed at the center of the exhibition, the sculpture represents questions that underlie Charlton’s drawings; questions about representation in culture and art.

“Visibility can be an act of defiance and agency.”

Meet the Artist!



Zoë Charlton (b. 1973, Tallahassee, Florida) received her MFA degree from the University of Texas at Austin and her BFA from Florida State University in painting and drawing. Charlton’s work has been included in national and international group exhibitions. She has participated in residencies at Artpace, McColl Center for Art + Innovation, Skowhegan School of Painting, and The Creative Alliance. Charlton is the co-founder of 'sindikit, an artist project space in Baltimore, and sits on the Maryland State Arts Council. She is an Associate Professor at American University in Washington, D.C.

Doppelganger Exploration

Zoë Charlton explores identity and self-hood in her artwork. This activity invites you to explore your own identity.

<https://www.u-ca.org/exhibition/the-ipseity-project>

Essential Questions

What kind of doppelganger did you choose? Why?

What qualities do you and your doppelganger share?

How does your doppelganger differ from you?

Are these differences meaningful? In what way?

How does your doppelganger make you feel?



1. Fold a piece of paper in half. Label one half self and the other half doppelganger.
2. In the “self” space draw, collage, or write about what makes you the person you are. Describe your appearance, your personality, your successes, and shortcomings. This space is for how you think of yourself.
3. In the doppelganger space draw, collage, or write about a different version of yourself. This could be the person you are on the inside, or how you look to others on the outside. This could be you in the past or you in the future. It could be a character from a story or show that reminds you of yourself. It could be a version of yourself that you, or maybe someone else, wants you to be.
4. Compare and contrast the two versions of you. Consider the essential questions.
5. If you feel comfortable, share your work with family and friends. Ask them to reflect on how they see you and discuss how their vision fits with your own self-image.