

hair and *identity*

1. Research.

Start by visiting the Carnegie Center for Art and History's virtual exhibition of *Permanent and Natural*, a group show featuring hair as a form of personal expression, as cultural relic, and as artistic medium.

2. Choose.

Select one work of art featuring a person with an interesting hairstyle. Look at the ways that the subject is portrayed in the work of art, and think about what their hairstyle might reveal about their identity.

3. Consider.

- The subject's perspective: What do you think the subject wants to convey to other people about his or her identity through their choice of hairstyle?
- The artist's perspective: What do you think the artist is trying to convey about the subject by showing this person and their hairstyle in this work of art?
- How do the perspectives of the subject and artist differ?

4. Create.

Make a photo collage in which you become both subject and artist. Find an old photograph of yourself with a very different hairstyle than you have now. Print it out on a sheet of paper, or open the image in a digital painting app. On one side of the page, write/type words that describe what the person in the photograph (your former self) was trying to convey to others about themselves in that phase of life, with that hairstyle. On the other side of the page, write/type words that describe who and what you see now, from a new perspective. Add colors and lines to connect or highlight words, creating an expressive collage that shows how your sense of identity has changed over time, both physically and emotionally.