



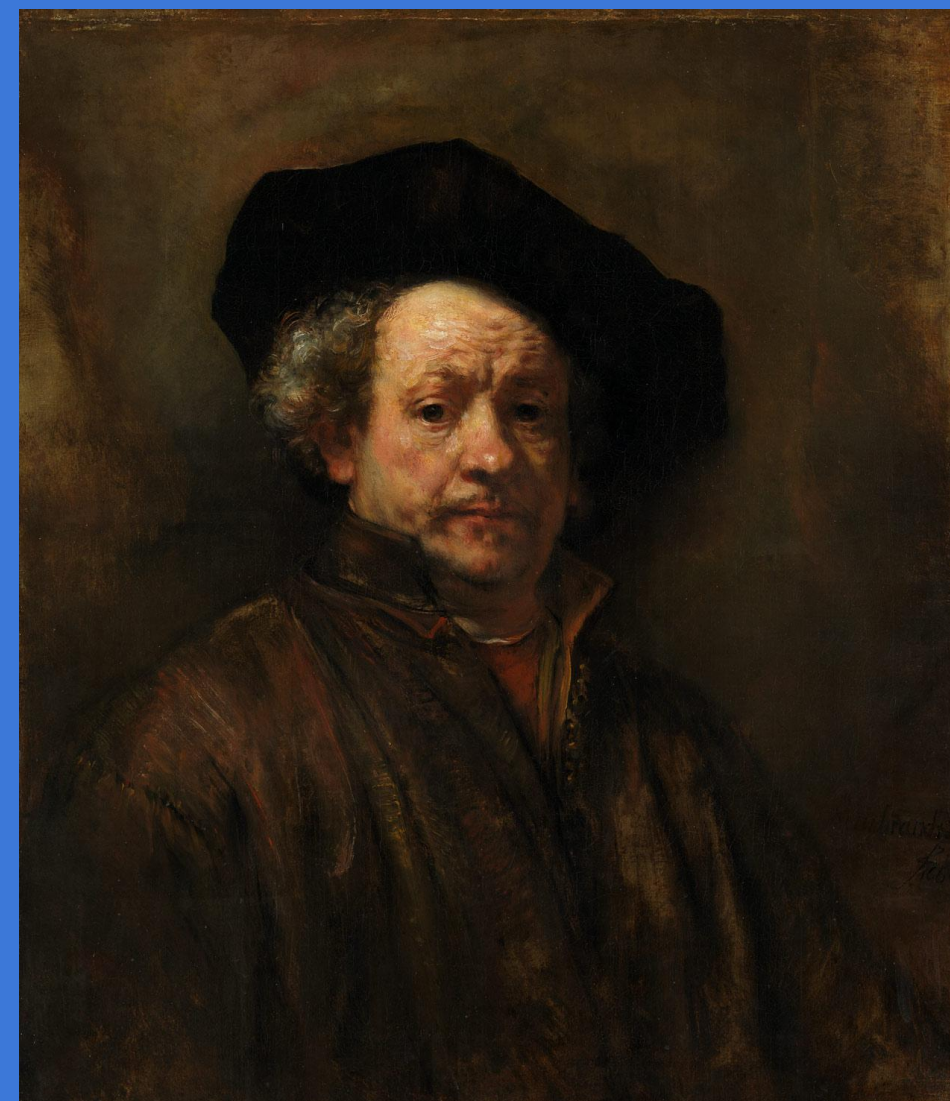
Historical Self Portraits as an Inspirational Tool For Contemporary Self Portraiture



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The Masters Researched

REMBRANDT



Rembrandt, a 17th Century artist, is believed to have created around 80 self portraits in his lifetime.

Picture from: Liedtke, Walter. "Rembrandt (1606–1669): Paintings | Essay | Heilbrunn Timeline of Art History | The Metropolitan Museum of Art." *The Met's Heilbrunn Timeline of Art History*. www.metmuseum.org/toah/ndrmbhd_rmbt.htm.

Rembrandt painted in traditional style of the Dutch Masters of portraiture, using dark background and illumination on hands and face. Most of his self portraits are simple head and shoulder paintings. He did many self portraits as an inexpensive way to practice painting faces.

EDVARD MUNCH



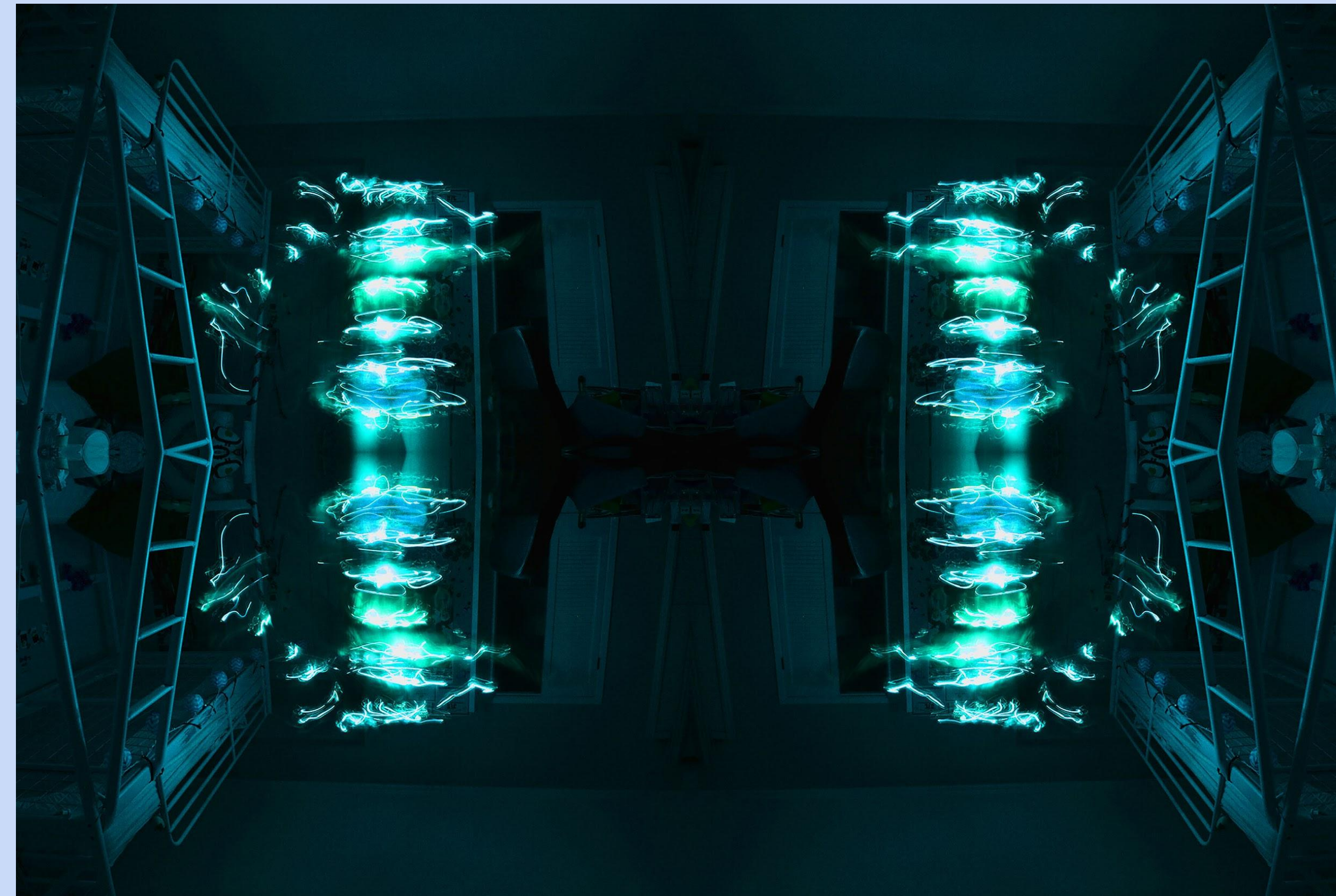
Munch is a 19th Century artist famous for his expressive paintings.

"Self-Portrait, Spanish Influenza, 1919." Norges Største Museum for Kunst, Arkitektur Og Design - Nasjonalmuseet, www.nasjonalmuseet.no/en/collections_and_research/our_collections/edvard_munch_in_the_national_museum/Self-Portrait+with+the+Spanish+Flu%2C+1919.b7C_wjY3-.ips.

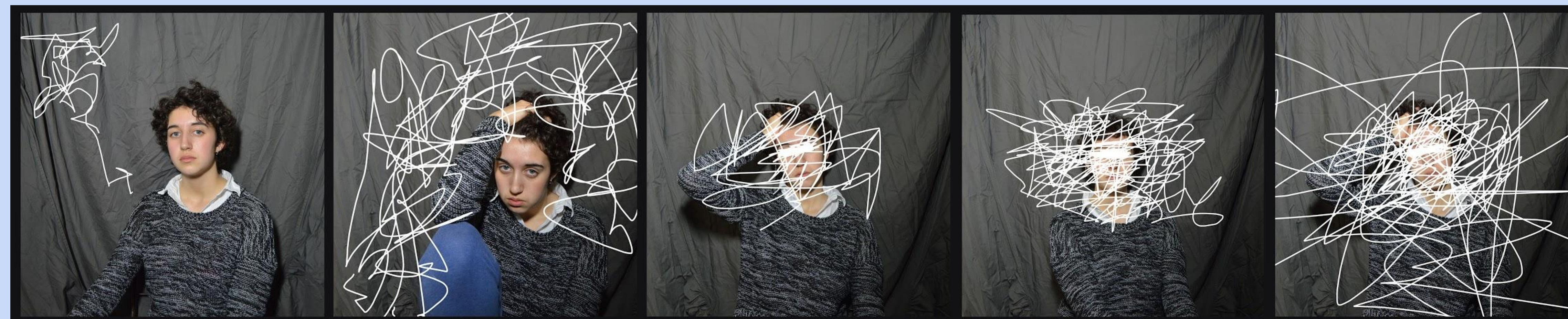
Munch created many paintings and self portraits as a way to express his feelings on issues such as love, mortality, and sickness. The painting pictured above, *Self-Portrait after Spanish Influenza*, is a self portrait of a tired old Munch after he survived the Spanish Influenza. Wavy lines and the expression on his face are used to show his frail condition.

My Work

Artist Statement: *My Way* (at right): I try to find my way through the art world. What do I want to do? Where am I going? It's difficult to know sometimes what I am doing. Sometimes it's like I'm making my way through a cave; it's fun, but I don't want to lose my way.



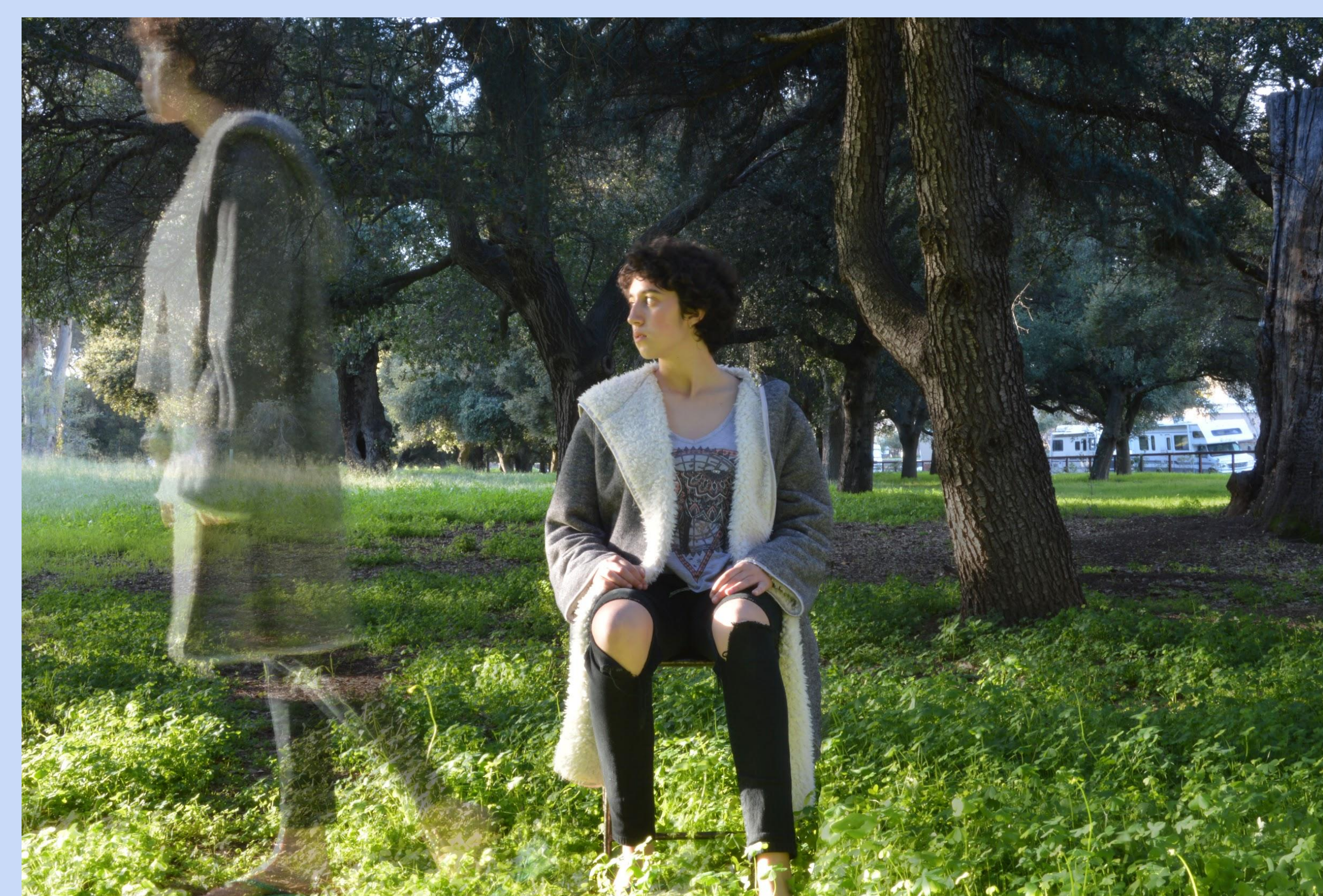
Inspiration: I composed this self portrait in my bedroom using fairy lights for motion blur. In Photoshop, I mirror-juxtaposed the image to explore Munch's expressive use of color and wavy lines, to illuminate my frustration with art.



Artist Statement: *Required Meaning* (above): After taking art classes throughout high school, I have learned one thing; you need a reason--a meaning--behind every piece you make, and that can be tiring. After a year of AP where every single piece needs to be created in a short amount of time, with a specific idea that you need to make the viewer see, it starts to make your mind feel exhausted. I used to make things for the sake of creating art, but somehow the requirement of making meaning has crept in, crushing me, to somewhat blind my artistic vision. I need to see again. I want to enjoy art again. I need to clear my mind.

Inspiration: I made this piece while thinking of Rembrandt's self portraits. I wanted to create a very straightforward, traditional self portrait, just me looking at the viewer. Then I let myself play with the idea of painting over the image, to erase my identity as an artist as I take tests and earn credits. My torment is abstracted like a Frida Kahlo painting.

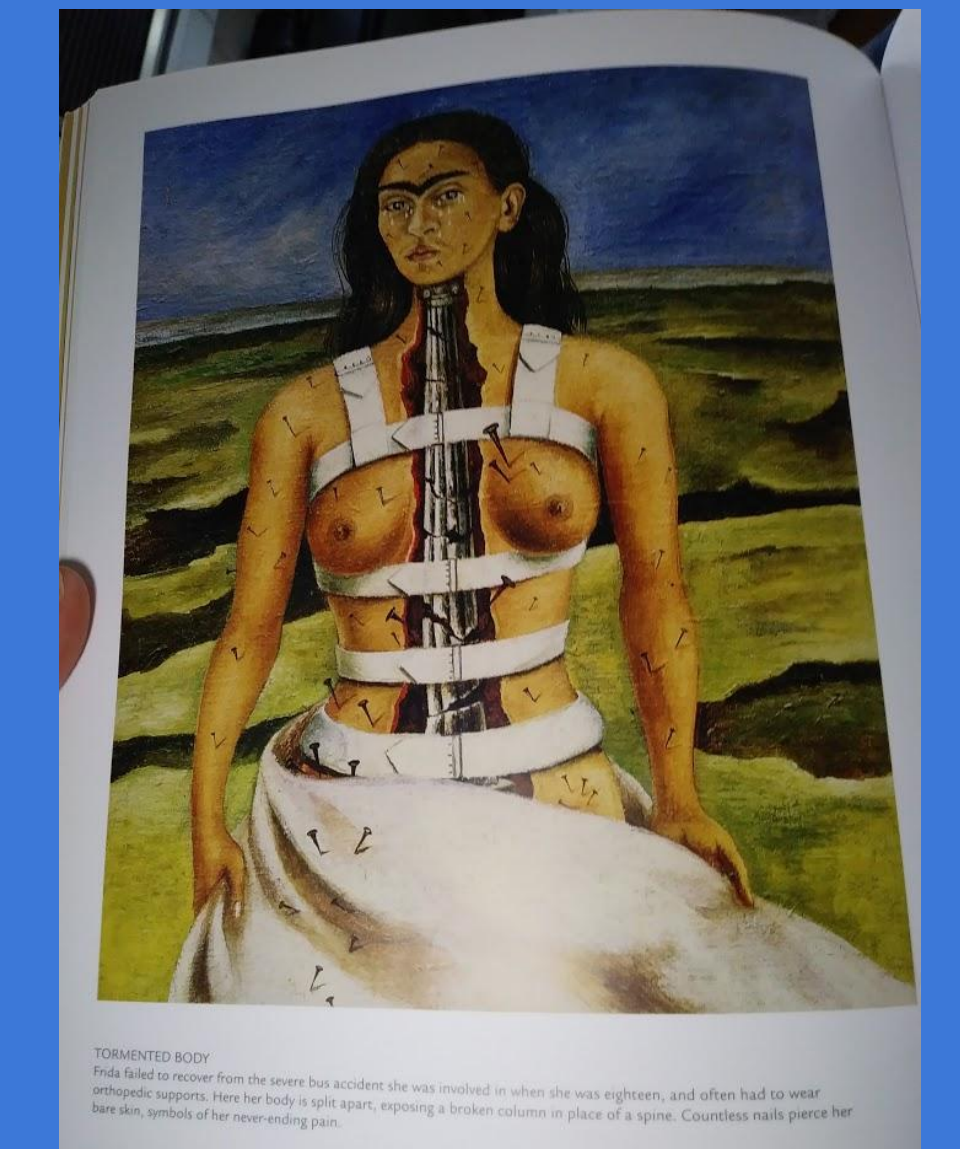
Artist Statement: *Vision of a Future* (right): I sit in a chair in the center to represent waiting as a Senior to do my time passing tests and getting credit to graduate. I look forward to the time when I can create art for the sake of it. I just have to wait a bit longer.



Inspiration: I chose my location in Nature and brought a chair to set up my scene in a similar manner to how Cindy Sherman creates a scene to photograph.

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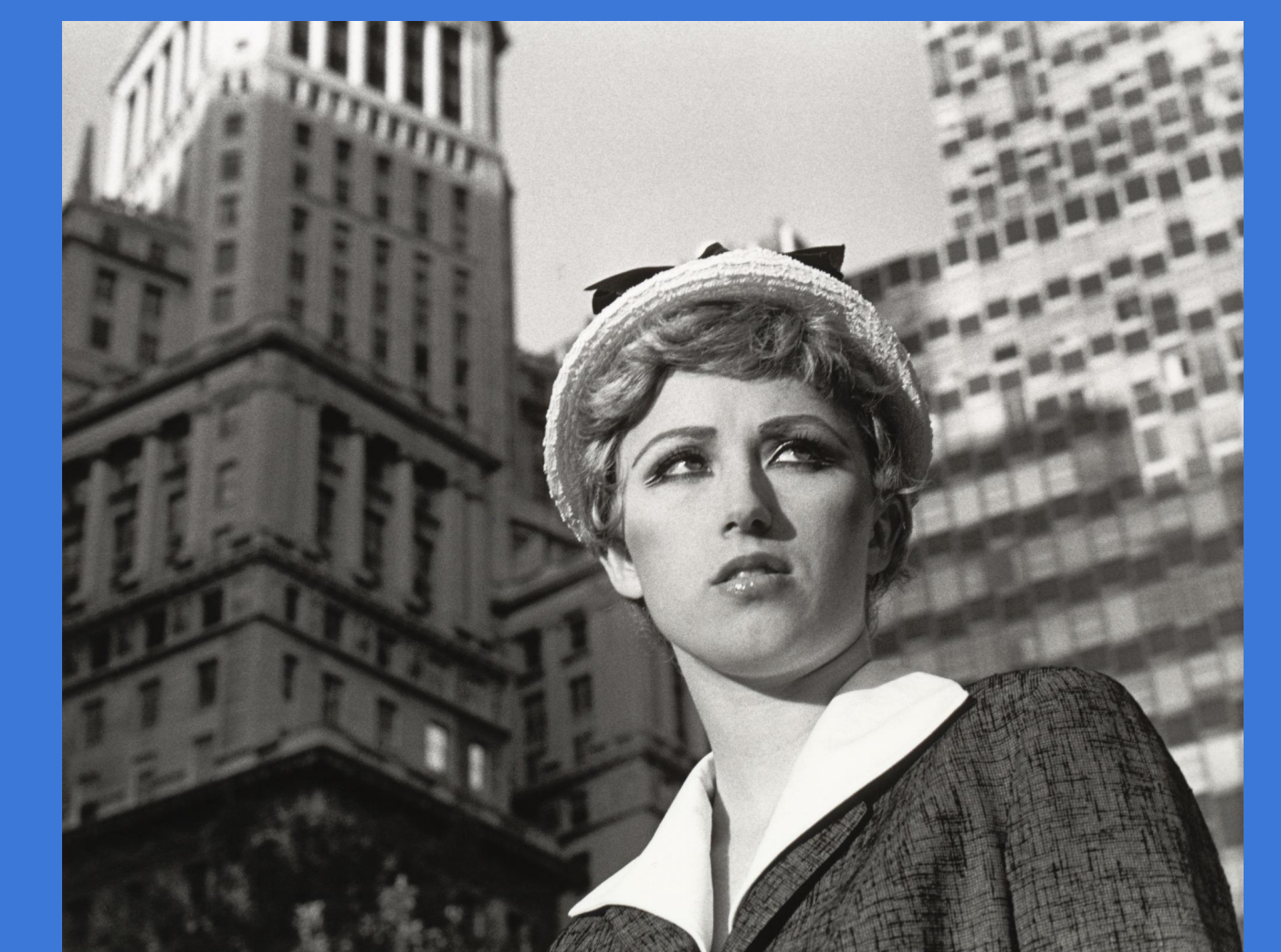
FRIDA KAHLO



[Page 70] Bauer, Claudia. *Frida Kahlo*. Rev. ed., London, Prestel, 2014.

Frida Kahlo had a tragic back injury in a bus accident when she was young and had terrible pain for the rest of her life. She used art to express her physical pain as well as her emotional pain from being marginalized as a woman artist. In her art, she used objects as metaphors. For example, a broken column might represent her injured spine as well as the frustration of being overlooked as an artist.

CINDY SHERMAN



Sherman, Cindy. "Cindy Sherman. Untitled Film Still #21. 1978 | MoMA." *The Museum of Modern Art*, www.moma.org/collection/works/56618.

Cindy Sherman is an artist who uses self portraits to frame meaning around a variety of subjects related to feminism. She is known for using disguises such as wigs and different types of clothing to express her message.