

## THIS IS ME NOW | AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL ART

**INTAKE:** JULY 27, 2017 - JULY 29, 2017 | 10 AM TO 5 PM

**OPENING:** AUGUST 4, 2017 | 5 PM TO 8 PM    **CLOSING:** AUGUST 26, 2017

Autobiographical art is a representation of an event or events that have happened in the artist's life. Different from a self portrait, autobiographical art focuses on experiences or memories; however, that doesn't mean that the self need be absent from the work completely. The artist may choose to depict important figures from their past or present, situations or locations with strong emotional resonance, or even more abstract images that trigger specific feelings or attitudes. Autobiographical art persuades viewers to relate their own lived experiences and personal history to the work, and indeed the audience's own life may be crucial to understanding it. Lived experience and personal history shape how viewers respond to autobiographical art.

Autobiography transforms a life story into narrative, often as a way of making sense of that life. Although autobiography is perhaps most readily identified as a literary genre, it has also played an important role in visual art: from Van Gogh to On Kawara, from Rembrandt to Faith Ringgold, autobiography and exploration of the self has a long standing role in the arts. Within contemporary art, many artists draw on the personal experiences that shaped their lives to address social and political issues or to create new kinds of relationships between people. In this sense, autobiographical art can operate both as a way of conveying lived experience and as an apparatus for experiential, relational viewing. In this practice of relational viewing, an artist's work can function as a powerful catalyst whereby viewers draw upon their own life stories to connect with the work.

The story of a life is always being rewritten, and an artist trying to capture all of themselves in a work is an exercise in futility. The ultimate goal of autobiographical art is not to portray the essence or complete being of the artist, but rather to intentionally document an aspect of the artist's identity. Any aspect of the artist's sense of self may be represented, such as important memories, age, family history, sexual identity, insecurity, commitment, doubt, confidence, trust, or communication. All media will be considered.

## SHOW ENTRY GUIDELINES

**ELIGIBILITY:** All work must remain on exhibit for the duration of the exhibit. No artwork may be exhibited that has previously been shown in the Gallery. All work submitted must have been finished within two years of intake dates. Exhibition Contract must be filled out completely when artwork is delivered.

**ENTRY FEES:** Fees for entering artwork are \$10 for one piece, \$10 for one additional piece, \$10 for second additional piece. Limit is 3 works per show.

**PRESENTATION AND DISPLAY:** Upon delivery, artwork should be exhibit ready, appropriately framed if necessary, appropriately mounted if necessary, ready to hang, and labeled on back with name of artist, title, medium and price. No tabletop frames will be accepted for hanging. Cottonwood reserves the right not to display every piece submitted.

**COMMISSIONS:** In the event of sales during the exhibit, the artist will receive 70% of retail price (set by the artist) and the Gallery will retain a 30% commission. All sales will be conducted through Cottonwood who will collect purchase price and Colorado sales tax. Payment from sales will be made to the artist no later than 30 days of exhibition closing. All work **MUST** be for sale.

**SHIPPING AND DELIVERY:** Artist is responsible for transit of accepted artwork to and from Cottonwood Center for the Arts. Upon delivery, artwork should be exhibit-ready, appropriately framed if necessary, appropriately mounted if necessary, and ready to hang. No tabletop frames will be accepted for hanging. If artwork must be shipped, please use a reusable container. Work must be professionally packed for safe shipping. Use screws only if shipping in wooden crates. Works must arrive on or before the show's listed intake dates. Shipped work must have a prepaid insured return label. Do not ship glass. Work is to be picked up by date listed for each show. Unless prior arrangements have been made any work not picked up within 30 days of show closure becomes property of Cottonwood.

**LIABILITY:** Cottonwood assumes no liability for theft, loss, fire, or destruction of any kind to any and all exhibited artwork, storage crates, or other related items, however caused throughout the duration of the show. By signing the Exhibition Contract, the artist acknowledges an understanding and agreement with the Cottonwood Center for the Arts exhibition policy and requirements.