

## The mirror

A project based on **Oswaldo Guayasamin**, artist of Ecuador



Guayasamin (1919 – 1999) was a master painter and sculptor. Being the son of an indigenous Quechua Indian father and mestizo (mixed race) mother, he faced racism and discrimination on a personal basis, which became a major theme in his art. The 1932 civil war in Ecuador, the poverty and injustice throughout Latin America was other significant influence on his development as a political activist and humanitarian. Guayasamin's images capture political oppression, poverty, racism, Latin America lifestyle, and class division found in much of South America.

In 1952 the artist paints *Ecuador*, a mural intended to represent the inherent antagonisms and racial multiplicity of the Ecuadorian nation, the mural is composed of five movable and interchangeable panels, pointing out how the human identity is always in motion.

**Objective:** Create a self-portrait in three segments. Your triptych will address your identity - *who I was, who I am and who I will be*

**Strategy:** Art is a process. Just like a story, it is a process with steps. And there is a lot that is hidden under the surface. In order to figure out what you are going to draw as a final presentation, make several sketches in your sketchbook referencing your identity. Fill two pages with at least twenty visuals. Then draw three rectangles and redraw the symbols which define your past, present and possible future self into the three composition spaces. Lastly, cut out the three rectangles to separate them and trace/reproduce from your sketchbook onto one sheet of 18x24 drawing paper.

Describe yourself in a journey. You have to somehow incorporate hands, the silhouette of a face or a person, and repeat certain elements in all three panels. There should be at least three different values in your final drawing. Pay close attention to diagonal lines, contrast and shading of the negative areas while building your drawing. Try to vary your mark-making strategy, having different lines, patterns, stippling and texture.

### References:

<http://www.modernsilver.com/guayasamin/guayasamin.htm>

<http://www.capilladelhombre.com/>

<http://www.molaa.org/Art/Exhibitions/past-exhibitions/Of-Rage-And-Redemption-The-Art-of-Oswaldo-Guayasamin.aspx>

[http://myhero.com/hero.asp?hero=Guayasamin\\_memorial\\_ms\\_06](http://myhero.com/hero.asp?hero=Guayasamin_memorial_ms_06)

[http://www.qpqweb.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=category&layout=blog&id=69&Itemid=179](http://www.qpqweb.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&layout=blog&id=69&Itemid=179)

### Timeline:

Feb 2 – planning; make sketches; Feb 4 - composition; start translating on big paper

Feb 9 – workday; Reception for Guayasamin's *Art in Motion* at the Kentucky Museum

Feb 16 – present and describe your three panels to the class.