

LOOKING TO LEARN

September 2021

This month we looked at *Pour Me* and *(I am) Not an Iron* by Sue Johnson, from our exhibition *Amplify*, read the book *Beautiful* by Stacey McAnulty, and made expressive zines about our own personalities. If you missed our program, or are looking to continue the discussion from home, here are the highlights!

EXPECTATIONS & IDENTITY: Personal identity is how you think about yourself while social identity is how others think about you. Have you ever felt treated a certain way because of how you look, or felt like you had to change to fit in? The expectations of others can be really powerful! Let's look to stories and artwork to better understand the effects of our personal and social identities.



(I AM) NOT AN IRON BY SUE JOHNSON

Artist Sue Johnson is interested in how our identity is often tied up in who other's might say we are. Let's look closely at the work of art and ask some questions:

- What do you see? Make a visual inventory of the things you notice in the artwork.
- What do you think the artwork is about? Why has the artist replaced parts of this woman's body with a machine?
- This artwork is made with magazine clippings from the 1960s. At the time, most women were expected to be a perfect housewife. What kind of expectations do you feel others have of you?
- What is one word you would use to describe yourself? What is one word your parents or teacher would use to describe you? How are these perspectives different?
- What kind of expectations do you have of others? Maybe someone in your family?

Sue Johnson, *(I am) Not An Iron* from Hall of Portraits from The History of Machines, 2019. Unique acrylic painting over print on canvas.

BEAUTIFUL BY STACY MCANULTY

This book is about bravely pushing back against expectations to be our truest selves. Watch a read aloud of *Beautiful* from Bullitt County Public Library [here](#).

- What are some words the author used to describe a "beautiful girl?"
- How are some of the illustrations of the girls different from your expectations of the word "beautiful?"
- What do you think makes someone beautiful?



BEAUTIFUL

Stacy McAnulty
ILLUSTRATED BY
Joanne Lew Vriethoff



LOOKING TO LEARN

September 2021

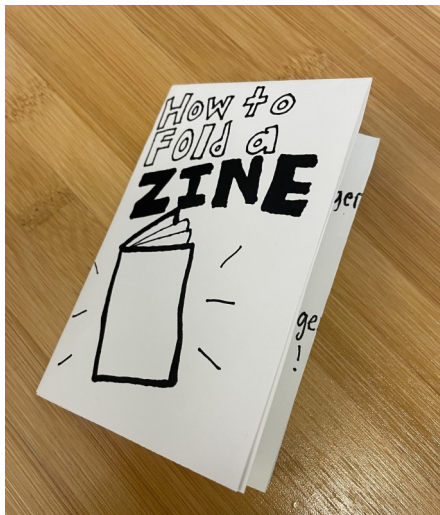
ART MAKING ACTIVITY: We are going to be making a Zine today (short for magazine). Zines have a long history of demonstrating bravery and independence. Back when printing full magazines and books cost a lot of money, courageous people who wanted to express their identity and interests started a movement to publish their own reading materials. They used supplies they had on hand to cut, paste, write, and draw in their magazines, and made copies of them at libraries or at home. Zine makers were now able to make their own choices about how to share their ideas with the community without having to pay a lot of money. Zines meant freedom for many from the expectations of others.

SUPPLY LIST:

- A standard sheet of paper (8.5x11)
- Patterned paper, envelopes, receipts, old notes, magazines
- Stickers
- Glue Stick, tape
- Scissors
- Pens, pencils, markers, crayons
- [Instruction booklet](#)



INSTRUCTIONS:



1. Follow the directions in "[How to Fold a Zine](#)" (instruction booklet is included in your art kit).
2. Once your zine is folded, think about what it means to express yourself freely. Use the materials you have on hand to cut, paste, write and design your own zine.



3. Fill each page with all of the things that make you special. Some things you might want to include in your zine could be: what is meaningful or beautiful to you, what you like to do, who you love, your favorite place, or even something that makes you sad or mad! There are so many pieces that make up the puzzle of you. What will you choose to put in your zine?

