

Imperfections of Journey/ Who Am I? is a visual performance piece based on the perception and ideals of “self”.

The emergence of this project began as I started my travels to Can Serrat (El Bruc, Barcelona, Spain) from The United States of America. This particular moment in my life was not only monumental, due to completing my undergraduate career only weeks prior, but venturing to Europe for the first time. As I left I began question: “What does my life look like from here? Who am I outside of an educating institution; as that’s all I’ve known for 17 years? What will I make of myself now outside of that mold?” These questions all eventually led to the biggest quandary of all – who am I?

My dive through self-actualization was thrown asunder and further into complexity at my very first stop. As I arrived in France for a connection flight to Barcelona, a man who heard me speaking English approached me and upon receiving my answer to his question of my nationality, spat on me. This man obtained a preconceived notion as to who I was, albeit knowing nothing more than the minor and superficial detail of my origin. After recovering from the pure shock that seized me in that horrific and disgusting moment, I knew that once I arrived at Can Serrat I wanted to delve into the ideas of perception of not only oneself but those who surround us.

During my stay there was 16 fellow artists living on the grounds; variant from visual artists and writers from the farthest points of the world. Cultures and nationalities I unfortunately had not had exposure too prior. As I started to develop my research, I came upon a study conducted by Manfred Kuhn and Thomas McPartland called The Twenty Statements Test (TST). The TST was devised in 1954, with the aim to measure self-concept and self-attitudes. The test is composed of twenty bank lines, with this statement at the top of the document:

There are twenty numbered blanks on the page below. Please write twenty answers to the simple question, Who am I? in these blanks. Just give twenty different answers to this question; answer as if you were giving the answers to yourself- not someone else. Write your answers in the order that they occur to you. Don’t worry about logic or importance. WHO AM I?

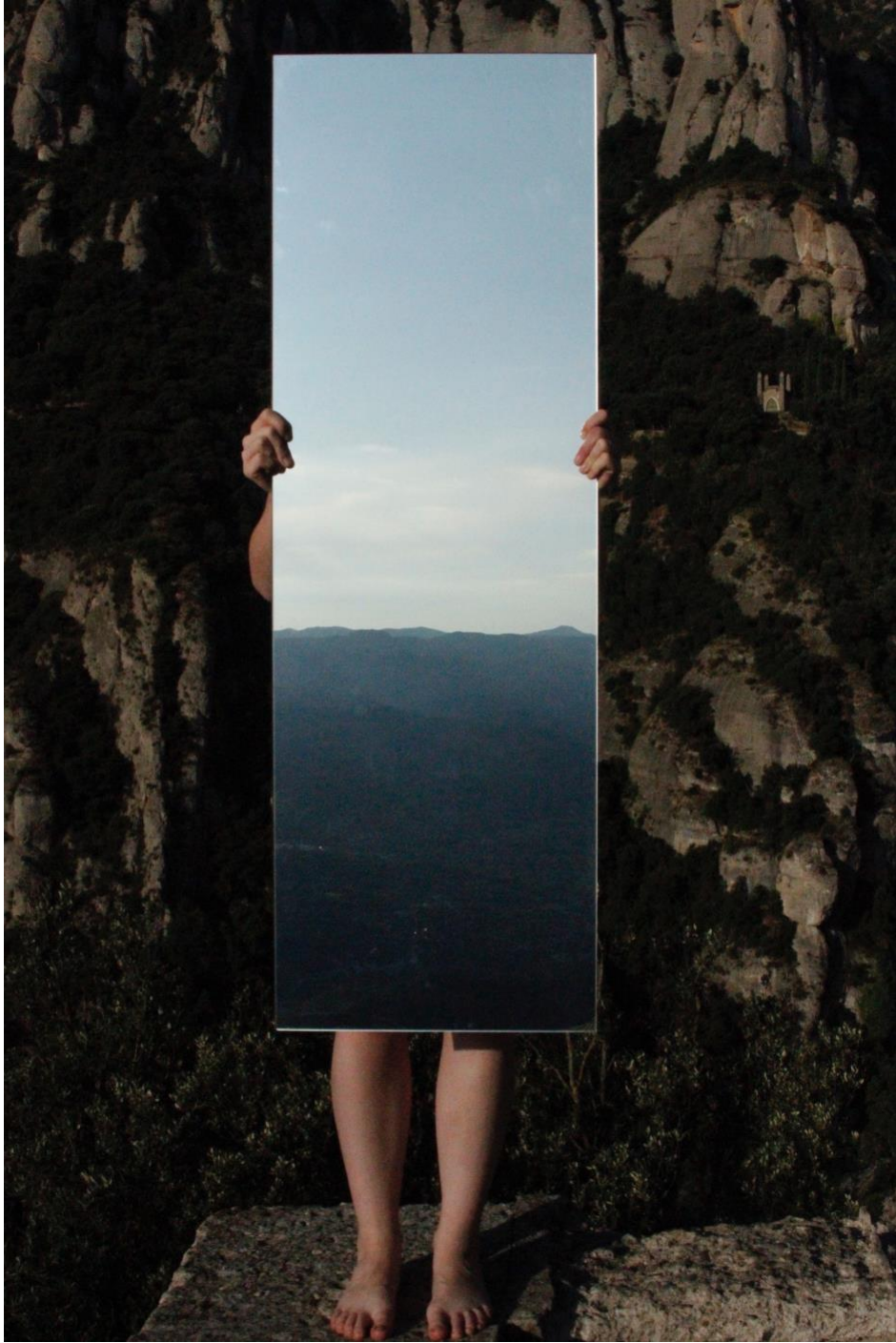
After discovering this study, alongside participating in it myself, I believed it would not only enhance my research regarding *self*, but open the bounds of vulnerability with whomever agreed to participate. I proceeded to forward this study to all of the existing residents and asked for them to take a moment many of us do not give ourselves—self-reflection. As I waited for these responses, I seized the remaining time of the residency to focus on what I believe represents a physical form of *self*; creating *Imperfections of Journey/ Who Am I?*.

Whilst delving into the rich history of El Bruc, I began to reflect how not only I view myself within the realm of Can Serrat, but where within El Bruc I existed. Through this, I discovered the large significance of Montserrat mountain and the Monastery that rests within. Individuals from around the world visit this Monastery and many trek the distance from the base of the mountain (similar to where El Bruc resides) to the Monastery; embarking on not only a physical journey but spiritual. I decided that I too wanted to experience this visceral trek.

As I prepared for my journey up the mountain, I came across a vanity mirror; misplaced and abandoned within the grounds of Can Serrat. This mirror, almost perfect in condition, laid almost unseen beneath the overgrown greenery that surrounded it. The discovery of that mirror, resulted in the images below (*Self1-3*).

I not only trekked the mountain path but did so, accompanied by the mirror I had found. My purpose within this decision led to a greater understanding of journey and recognizing the many stops there are along the way—as similar to life and self-discovery. This mirror served as a reminder as I was trekking to view not only what was behind me, but ahead, and to physically see myself accomplish such (*Self2 and Self3*). Juxtaposed to *Self1*, this image embraced the possibility of not being able to visually see ahead, although you are physically in a position of a continuing journey—holding my future in my hands.

- * The data collected earlier within this residency is still being collected and will be used for future artistic endeavors.



Self1



Self2



Self3