

Project Background: In 1903 a young Pablo Picasso was broke, unpopular, down on his luck, and perhaps regretting his life choices. He imagined what his future might look like, and it wasn't pretty. He felt he would end up all alone, poor, unloved, and discarded by society. Although he was young, he used his vision of his own future to paint himself in old age, as this lanky old man, blind, playing a sad song on this Spanish guitar. (with no strings)...all alone. Notice his color choices...mostly blues, black and dull browns. The colors and posture of the man help tell the story.



Lucky for Picasso and the world, this did not turn out to be the case, and Picasso's career took off and was a triumph of 20th century art, reinventing the game many times over. Still, this idea of "Self Projection" is an interesting one...

Project: Make an artwork about your future self!

Imagine yourself at any future age. 5 years from now when you might be working, in college, in the military or any other thing you imagine...or 500 years from now in some strange science fiction world (I'm reminded of Fallout 4 with Codsworth). You choose the time period.

Create a "future self portrait." This does not have to necessarily look like you. It could be symbolic, even abstract. Where will you live, in space? On a floating city? Underwater? Or simply at home, with friends, with a family...What will you look like? What do you want to look like? Will science prevent aging? Who will your friends be? Will they be the same as now, or do you imagine something different for yourself?

Although Picasso's future self portrait was pretty serious, yours certainly does not have to be. It can be hilarious, strange, or anywhere on the emotional map that you choose!