

# BARBARA KRUGER - How are images and words used to form a perception of who we are?

## Spotlight Artist:

**Barbara Kruger**  
1945-

'I work with pictures and words because they have the ability to determine who we are and who we aren't.'



## Skills and Techniques

### Photography skills:

**Focus**— Which part of your photo is sharp or blurred? What do you want to people to focus on? When taking the photo on an iPad click on the screen to focus on a part of the photo.

**Composition**—Where will you take the photo? What will be in the background? Will you have any props? Try experimenting by taking your photo from different angles.

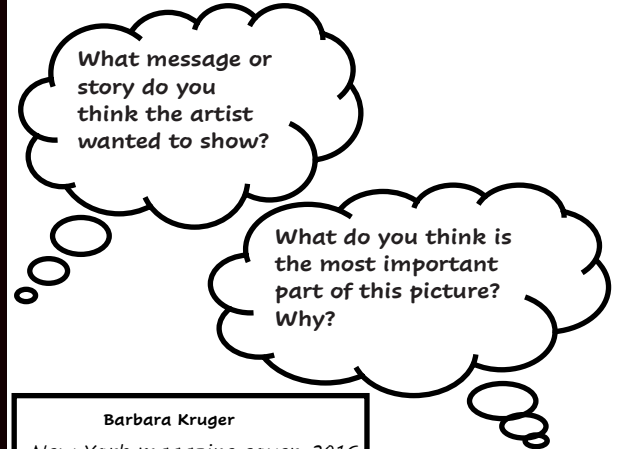
**Editing**— Change your photo by, cropping, using filters or adjusting light and contrast. When editing a photo it is important to think about the colours and effects you want in your final image.



New York magazine cover, 2016.



## Art Detectives



Barbara Kruger  
New York magazine cover, 2016.

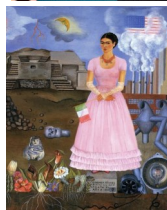
## Key Vocabulary



**Photography**—the art or practice of taking and processing photographs.



**Editing**— changing your photo by, cropping, using filters or adjusting light and contrast.



**Perception** —the way in which something is regarded, understood, or interpreted. Kruger believed pictures and words have the ability to determine how others see us.

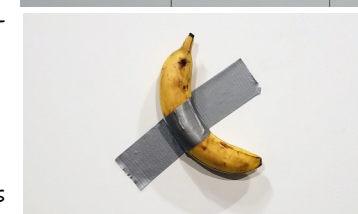
**Portrait** - A portrait is a painting or a photograph of a person's face and its expression. Some portraits tell us something about that person, their story.

**Identity** - Identity is the qualities, beliefs, personality traits, appearance and/or expressions that characterise a person or group.

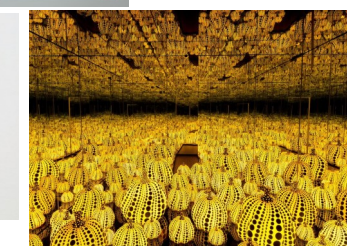
**Conceptual** - Conceptual art is art for which the idea (or concept) behind the work is more important than the finished art object. Below are some famous examples of conceptual art they are meant to make you think.



Tiger Shark—  
Damien Hirst



Comedian—Maurizio Cattelan



Infinity room—Yayoi  
Kusama

### Character

Can I create a self-portrait using word and images to show my identity?

### Critical thinking

What words do you use to describe yourself? Does this change at home/school?

### Creativity

How could you show your identity without using a portrait? What could represent your identity?

### Communication

Are you able to identify your peers through the words they have chosen?

### Citizenship

How can we use our words to encourage and build each other up?

### Collaboration

Can you create a class portrait? What words and images could you use to represent your class?

glue here

You might like to....



Take inspiration from David Hockney's photomontages and create a self portrait collage. Take photos

from different angles and combine.

Why not try making a portrait from just words? You could experiment with your name or words that you would use to describe yourself.

