



Isaiah Zagar, the creator of Philadelphia's Magic Gardens, has created his own four-armed man self portrait that can be seen throughout the space. This icon has many elements that represent different facets of his personality.

This could be done after a visit to PMG or works well as a back to school or getting to know you activity.

Materials

- Small white ceramic tiles (2" x 2" tiles work well)
 - Colored Sharpie markers
 - Self adhesive magnetic strips
 - Scissors
 - Clear varnish (optional)
1. Give each student one tile for their self portrait and one piece of magnet to adhere to the back.
 2. Encourage students to be creative in making their self portrait. Students can think about things that are special to them or make them unique. Younger students may create a straight-forward self portrait while older students may be encouraged to incorporate things about themselves into their portrait the way Zagar did.
 3. Students should draw directly on the white surface of the tile with the markers. Clear varnish may be sprayed over the drawing when finished to preserve it longer, but this sometimes makes the colors bleed slightly.
 4. Have students share with the class or in small groups what they included on their tile and why.
 5. Display the students' tiles on a classroom white board or use them to hang each student's work with their own tile. Students can then take their tiles home at the end of the year or lesson.