

## Self(ie) Love: Soundsuits

### Objectives

SWBAT explore the artwork, specifically the soundsuits, of Chicago artist, Nick Cave

SWBAT work in groups to create a soundsuit

SWBAT utilize various methods to create a wearable piece of art that makes sounds when worn and moved in

### Ages: 2nd-4th

### Big Questions:

What would happen if everyone had to wear a suit that concealed their identity?

Do you think we would treat each other differently? How?

What would be some positive outcomes of everyone wearing a suit? What might some negative outcomes be?

### Background information

Nick Cave's "Soundsuits"—surreally majestic objects blending fashion and sculpture—originated as metaphorical suits of armor in response to the Rodney King beatings and have evolved into vehicles for empowerment. The Soundsuits, which fully cover anyone wearing them, serve as an object that obscures race, gender, and class, allowing viewers to look without bias towards the wearer's identity. Cave regularly performs in the sculptures himself, dancing either before the public or for the camera, activating their full potential as costume, musical instrument, and living icon.

### Materials

Fabric, yarn, googly eyes, fabric markers, sequins, buttons, garland, paper, and anything that might make a noise when moved

### Day 1:

Introduce Nick Cave using video like [these](#) from Art21. Discuss big questions and ask students what materials they might use to create a soundsuit. Place several containers of potential materials on tables for students to play with. What sounds do you like? What do you want the feeling do you want listeners to have when your suit moves?

### Day 2:

Working in groups, students will create a 'community' sound suit that they each will have a chance to wear, move in, and then have a portrait taken while wearing. Use glue, tying, and other adhesives to create suits.

