

Social & Emotional Learning

STRENGTH & HOPE

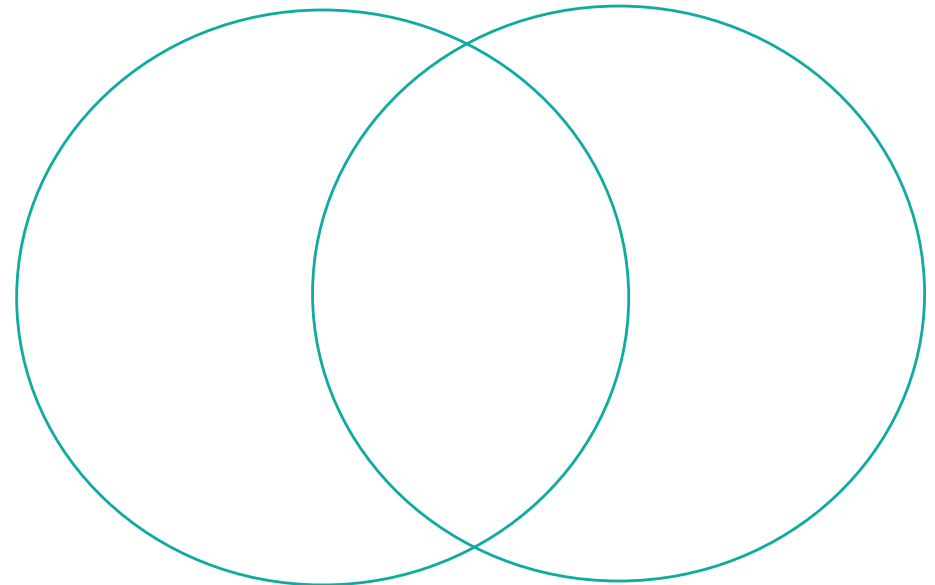


Mequitta Ahuja, *Parade*, 2007

Enamel on canvas, two panels, 96 x 160 in., Blanton Museum of Art, The University of Texas at Austin, Gift of Melanie Lawson and John F. Guess, Jr., in honor of Jeanne and Michael Klein, 2010, © Mequitta Ahuja, 2007

abstract	<i>Taken from.</i> In abstract art , an idea may be <i>taken from</i> something in the world, but the colors, shapes, and lines in the work are used more for expression than description.
vertical	<i>The up-down direction.</i> (The side-to-side direction is horizontal .)
automythography	A word invented by Mequitta Ahuja to describe her artistic approach of using her own image in a painting to suggest a story.

Look back at *Parade*. What differences do you notice between the left and the right panels? Use the Venn Diagram below to note your observations. The overlapping area should include things that are true for BOTH panels.



Write three words you might use to describe the character in the painting.

-
-
-

Next, write three words to describe yourself.

-
-
-

Where do you get ideas?

Where does your strength come from?

Looking again at *Parade* for inspiration, imagine a story. Who is this woman? Where is she going? What has she left behind? Use the space below to write or draw another scene from this story.

There is something hopeful about the scene that Mequitta Ahuja has created. What are some things we can do to stay hopeful, even when times are tough?

FIND OUT MORE...

Learn more about the artist by watching this 3-minute video clip

Watch *Crystal Bridges: Mequitta Ahuja – Working with Traditional Images* on YouTube at bit.ly/SELResource2

Take a look at Mequitta Ahuja's early sketch of *Parade*

An artist goes through many steps in developing a complicated painting like *Parade*. Mequitta Ahuja starts by making photographs of herself and using them as source material. This sketch, kindly provided by the artist herself, gives us a glimpse into one stage of Ahuja's creative process. View at bit.ly/SELResource3

Certain materials in this video are included under the fair use exemption of the U.S. Copyright Law and have been prepared according to the educational multimedia fair use guidelines and are restricted from further use.