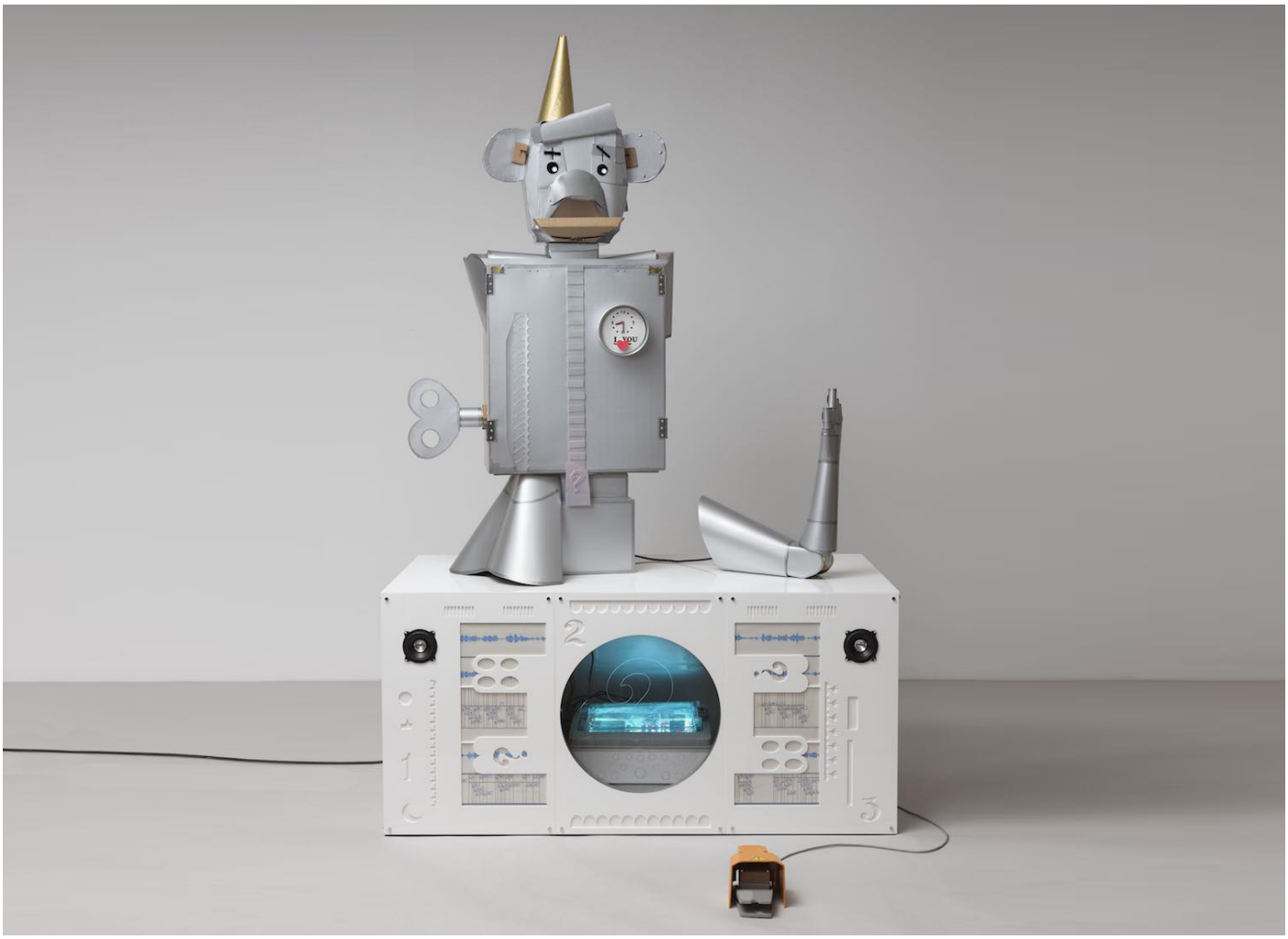
Simon Fujiwara

Who The Bær

Kunstinstituut Melly

Print this activity or find a blank sheet of paper and a pencil.



Who the Bær, 2020.

With this activity we follow our furry friend Who the bear on a journey to look for an identity. Who is a bear who is neither man nor female. Who can take on all kinds of different shapes and can travel without moving through different countries, and to the past, the present and the future. The artist who came up with this special bear is named Simon Fuijwara. The exhibition *Who the Bær* is made up of many different drawings and images in which we see Who take on different shapes and forms. Unfortunately the bear can never become a real living creature, he will always remain a flat image.

Counting

Sketches and models for the exhibition.

1.
Take a good look at this image. How many times do you count Who the bear?

How did Who the bear come to life?

When in March 2020 the Coronavirus broke out and everybody had to stay at home as much as possible, artist Simon Fuijwara began to experience the outside world in a different way. Important people from the news began to look like cartoon characters. To understand this new world the artist began to draw over images from magazines and newspapers and make collages. Collage is the name for a number of images combined to form a new image. From these collages Who the bear was born. Who has the freedom to transform into anything he wants and to travel without moving.

2a.
Who travels all over the world and through time. Where do you think Who should travel to?

2b.
What changed for you in our world since the outbreak of Corona?

What is an identity?

New work, 2021.
Kunstinstituut Melly, Rotterdam. Courtesy the artist.

3a.
Look at the three images of Who at the top of the page and write down five things for each image that draw your attention.

An identity says something about who you are. This is not only your first name and surname, but also where you were born and the colour of your eyes for example. An identity can also exist out of things that you imagine yourself or love. Think about your personal music taste or the clothes that you pick out to wear. Who doesn't have an identity and can therefore experience the freedom to transform between body and meaning.

3b.
If you, just like Who, had the liberty to change your identity into anything you wanted – how would you look? Draw yourself with this other identity, in the box on the right or on a blank sheet of paper.

Make your own cartoon character

4a.
Look for a newspaper or advertisements, a magazine or a book, or anything with images that you can cut out.

4b.
Choose one image of a human being or an animal that speaks to you, and one image of an object or a landscape.

4c.
Now we're going to combine those images together in a collage. Cut the images in a way that together they will form one cartoon picture.
Do you need of inspiration? On the website of kunstinstituutmelly.nl you can see what others have created.

4d.
Stick your cartoon character in the box on this page, or on a blank sheet of paper. If needed, draw some extra shapes around it.

4e.
Give your character a name and write this down next to it.

4f.
Describe in three words the specialty of your cartoon character and write these words also next to it.

4g.
Make a photo of your cartoon character and send this with your first name, age and title to activiteiten@kunstinstituutmelly.nl.
We will place your art piece on the website and gather a huge collection of different cartoon characters.

Who the Bær, 2021.

Kunstinstituut Melly

Concept & development: Emmelie Mijs
Design: Loes Verstappen
Photos page 3: Jeroen Lavèn

© 2021 Kunstinstituut Melly, Rotterdam.
Kunstinstituut Melly is supported by Gemeente Rotterdam and Ministerie van OCW. This project is made possible by AMMODO, Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen and Goethe-Institut Rotterdam.

Kunstinstituut Melly
Witte de Withstraat 50
NL–3012 BR Rotterdam