

Emily Cueto

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## **Identity**

The two artists I chose to research were Bruce Nauman and Kerry James Marshall. The two men's artwork varies immensely in style, execution, and meaning. The two come from different racial and social backgrounds which greatly impacts their individual identities. One incorporates simple daily life into his compositions and the other uses his art in order to fight for social justice and reclaim power.

Bruce Nauman's work was, interesting to say the least, and I could appreciate it from afar or in concept. His two hour long low quality recording of himself setting a fence post on his ranch is not much more engaging to watch than paint drying, but gives a bit of insight regarding his personal life. Nauman is a rancher as well as an artist and in this footage he found a way to combine the two major aspect of his life. Though I'd never sit through the full length of his film I appreciate the beauty of mundane tasks being portrayed as art. However the same cannot be said for his abstract projections of faces and recordings of voices repeating phrases over and over in a borderland psychotic manner. This display gave me major anxiety.

Though I didn't particularly care for Kerry's style of painting and use of color, I loved the drive and purpose behind his work. His idea of painting his characters as pitch black instead of a lighter brown in order to reclaim the power and beauty that comes from being black is inspirational to me. Most of the beauty standards imposed by society are white centric and make it seem that if you're not ivory there's nothing that can redeem you in the world of beauty and fashion. He's not showing any shame in his skin color or background and is taking his identity back from the society that has tried so hard to bury it and make it seem of less value.