

Per(Sister) Family Guide

Explore the exhibition with this interactive guide and toolkit!



Remember - Questions are great! (And there's a tool for them in the toolbox!)

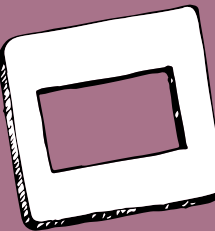
There's also a glossary in the back, if you come across an unfamiliar word.



Discover new words and ideas presented in the exhibition!

Word to Know: EMPATHY

It means: The ability to understand and share the feelings of another person.



Use the viewfinder in your toolbox and use it to look at an artwork: Hold it close to one eye and close the other while looking through it. (Your vision will be framed by a rectangle.)

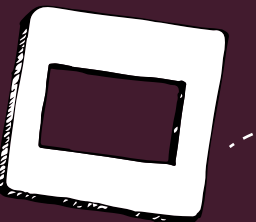
Now take it away and look at the piece with both eyes open. What changed?



Notice that while the viewfinder allows you to focus on details in an artwork, it doesn't allow you to see the whole picture at one time.

This is kind of how empathy works: when we can see and understand the whole picture (the way someone feels from their experience), we can relate to and even share their feelings. The ability to empathize with someone is a powerful tool to understand the world outside of ourselves.

Use the viewfinder to look for details in each of the artworks in this room and then look at the work again without the viewfinder. Notice the difference it makes in how we see!



Word to Know: NARRATIVE

One of the most important steps in creating this exhibit was to *speak with* the women who inspired the artworks, to *listen to* their stories and ask them *questions*.

Many of the interviews allowed the women to share their very personal, and painful experiences while in prison. Their truths display an incredible strength in each of them. If they hadn't shared their stories with us, we wouldn't understand what they had endured, and most of the artworks would not have been possible to make!



Use the microphone from your toolbox and interview a family member or friend.

What kind of questions would you ask?

You probably already know things like "What is your favorite color?"

Instead, why not ask "What is the most important thing someone should know about you?" or "How do you deal with challenges?"



Word to Know: DIGNITY

It means: Being worthy of honor or respect.



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|---------|------------|----------|------------|
| money | freedom | respect | happiness |
| love | compassion | anger | pets |
| empathy | wealth | caring | loyalty |
| pain | friends | equality | pride |
| fame | self-worth | decency | popularity |

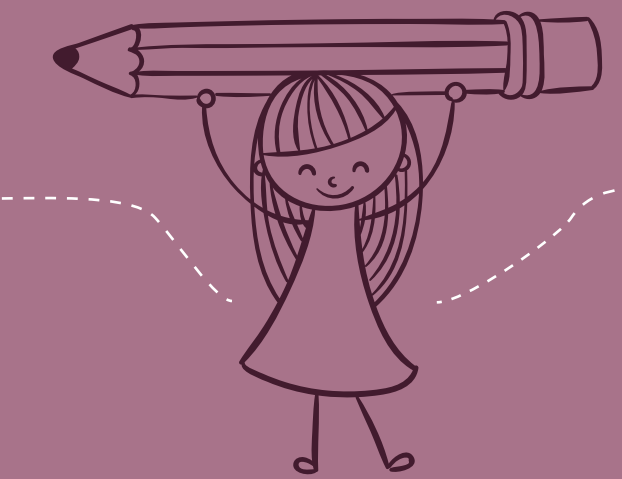
Word to Know: **FORGIVENESS**

Kristina Lopez, who inspired the artwork by Ana Hernandez (check it out in the big gallery in the back, it's the colorful one with blue strings!), endured great emotional pain while imprisoned. Despite this, she was able to forgive those who had made her suffer.

In forgiving them, she felt an emotional freedom, though she was not free physically.

What do you think this means? 

Think of a time where you forgave someone. Use the card in your toolbox to write or draw how it made you feel to forgive that person.



Word to Know: **POWER**

It means: The ability to do something or act in a certain way.



Now take the mirror out of your toolbox. Look in it. Do you see an amazing person capable of so many things? (We sure hope so!)

Each black and white portrait in the exhibit depicts a powerful person, beautiful in their ability to rise above challenges in life.

Choose a portrait you like and using the mirror, try to pose as them.

How does it make you feel?



GLOSSARY MATCH!

Glossary - match the word or phrase with the definition (Answers on next page)

- Jail: place where people convicted of crimes are held long term.
- Empathy: experience or story told BY the person who experienced it. (often uses I, me, and/or we to describe events.)
- Power: to decide and declare that someone is guilty of a crime in a court of law
- 1st person account: consideration of the wishes, feelings, rights or traditions of others
- Prison: the ability to do something or act in a certain way.
- Conviction: the ability to understand and share the feelings of another person.
- Respect: is usually intended for holding people for a short term before or directly after trial.

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