

ON BECOMING SOMEONE ELSE
2014

Performance Art as part of the *A world of my own*
workshop by Geraldine Pilgrim. Supported by the Live Art
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VERONICA CORDOVA DE LA ROSA

This project looked at different ways of transforming identity in performance and how by creating a visual world to inhabit, both in the imagination and reality, an artist can become someone else. *A World of your own*, was a chance to look at ways we can inhabit a world of our own making, creating images that are internal made external.

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The workshop allowed me to become my grandmother Gregoria Sanchez de la Rosa who suffered from Alzheimers. She lived through and survived the Mexican Revolution. My grandmother and her sister were hidden by her mother during the Mexican Revolution. She put a mix of herbs on her faces so they could appear as if they were ill. Then, the men who tried to kidnap them would not take them. My mother cannot remember if they were revolutionaries or soldiers.

For this workshop I dressed up as my granny. I put on a large skirt, white blouse, hat, walking stick and I also dyed my hair white. I walked for three hours in Oxford with the artist Robert Ridley-Shackleton. I asked him to be my companion, since I could not remember granny walking by herself.

The last part of the workshop, involved visiting a museum as our personas. I took my granny to the Manchester Museum. I did not dress as her, but behaved like her. I was someone in between her and myself. I had a camera and took pictures of the things I thought my granny would feel curious about. Inventing a visual empathy in what I saw.

Veronica Cordova de la Rosa
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