Choose one of these questions, some of which are adapted from The CJM Study Guide, to think about. If you want a bonus blog, these thoughts could form the basis of your blog this week. You could also blog about other aspects of the exhibition. Blog is optional this week, however.

How do these artists activate and expand your understanding of your **self**?

Think about your social identities—race/ethnicity, gender, gender identity, sexuality, class, age, religious affiliation and/or spiritual orientation, disabilities—all of which have political implications and are often socially constructed. Think about your talents, gifts, personal strengths, your friendship groups, allies, whatever else makes you **you**.

How does exploring these artists connect to our classroom community?

How can we utilize ideas from the artists to better support our own and others identity formation?

What are some reasons to develop a strong sense of self?

Text from The CJM website: **Show Me as I Want to Be Seen**

*How do we depict “the self” if it is unknowable, inherently constructed, and ever-changing? How does the concept of portraiture shift when categories are in crisis and visibility itself is problematic? Jewish thought on performed and fluid identity can be interpreted in the Book of Esther* in the Hebrew Bible, an archetypal story of an empowered declaration of Jewish identity. *Likewise, the Talmudic notion of svara** is a potent entry-point to Jewish practices of self-determination, themes that animate **“Show Me as I Want to Be Seen.”** (emphasis mine)*

Taking the work of French Jewish artist and writer Claude Cahun (1894–1954) and her lifelong lover and collaborator Marcel Moore (1892–1972) as its starting point, **Show Me as I Want to Be Seen** examines the empowered representation of fluid and complex identity. Cahun (born Lucy Schwob) and Moore (born Suzanne Malherbe) were pioneers in their bold representations of an unfixed self. This exhibition positions their work in dialogue with ten contemporary artists working in painting, sculpture, photography, video, and 3-D animation. The contemporary artists in the exhibition—Nicole Eisenman, Rhonda Holberton, Hiwa K, Young Joon Kwak, Zanele Muholi, Toyin Ojih Oduola, Gabby Rosenberg, Tschabalala Self, Davina Semo, and Isabel Yellin—also address notions of the opaque, constructed, and shifting self. (emphasis mine)

*Esther, a figure in the Old Testament, reveals her identity as a Jew at risk to herself in order to save her people who are being threatened. (L.S. addendum)

**Svara is a concept that links your personal moral compass to Jewish traditions of learning which encourage debate, dialogue and multiple interpretations of sacred texts. (L.S. addendum)