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Title of Project:

Real-Life Cowboys: Representing new male subjectivities in 21st century cowboy art using participatory visual methods and research-creation

Sponsor:

Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada



Social Sciences and Humanities
Research Council of Canada

Conseil de recherches en
sciences humaines du Canada

Canada 

This consent form, a copy of which has been given to you, is only part of the process of informed consent. If you want more details about something mentioned here, or information not included here, you should feel free to ask. Please take the time to read this carefully and to understand any accompanying information.

The University of Calgary Conjoint Faculties Research Ethics Board has approved this research study.

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study is to learn about and create artworks about the ways that male and female rodeo contestants from Southern Alberta understand their gender identity.

What Will I Be Asked To Do?

You will be asked to allow Jean René Leblanc, and later, Denis Gadbois to visit you at your home up to three separate times. The first time, Jean René will visit by himself. During this visit, he will become acquainted with you and to talk with you about your experiences within “cowboy” culture and how you experience masculinity and femininity with respect to your life as a rodeo contestant. He may ask you questions like: How did you know that you were a cowboy/cowgirl? How did you become involved in rodeo? Are all cowboys male? Also, during this visit, Jean René will ask you to complete a questionnaire that will provide us with more information about how you experience masculinity and femininity. Questions on this questionnaire would include the following sorts of questions:

- Is a cowboy necessarily male?
- In your opinion, what is a cowgirl?
- What is the difference between a cowboy and a cowgirl?
- When did you first begin to think of yourself as a cowboy/cowgirl?

After this visit, you will receive the first part of your remuneration, \$100, for this part of your participation.

During the second visit, Jean René will work with you to create a symbolic self-portrait (an image of who you are, not necessarily of how you look) that communicates, through your choice of characteristics and objects included in the image, your sense of yourself as a portrait (note: This portrait may or may not include your face or body, that is your choice).

Jean René and Denis Gadbois will visit you a third time. During this visit Jean René and Denis will take 3D scans and panoramic photographs that document objects and spaces (both indoor and outdoor) that you identified during the earlier visits as being important symbols of your identity. They may also take new portraits of you led by your decisions regarding what you want to include in the portrait (note: These portraits may or may not include your face or body, that is your choice).

Jean René will create works of art based on the information from the self-portrait, interview, and the questionnaires. He will make another visit to you to present “prototype” versions of the artworks to you for feedback, validation and/or critique. You will then choose which of these “in process” artworks will be refined and produced into final artworks by the creative team. At this point, you will receive the second part of your remuneration, \$200, for this part of your participation.

Your participation in this study is completely voluntary; you may refuse to participate altogether, may decline to answer any and all questions. You may decline to participate in some of the activities of the study (for example: symbolic self-portrait, or indoor 3D scans). You may withdraw from the study at any time.

What Type of Personal Information Will Be Collected

Should you agree to participate, you will be asked to provide us with your name, your mailing address, including postal code, the location of your home, your telephone number and email address. These will be used to communicate with you and to locate you in order to visit you at your home.

A full face photograph may be taken of you in the creation phase when a symbolic self-portrait is created. However, you may choose not to have your face included in this “portrait”. Audio recordings of the interview that Jean René has with you will be made. These recordings will be given a number code. The key for the coding of recordings that matches your name with this number, will be recorded on a document to which only the above listed researchers will have access. The numbered recordings will then be transcribed by graduate research assistants. These transcriptions will be analyzed in order to understand something about your masculine identity. If you choose to participate in this study, please respond to the statement below, choosing Yes or No:

I grant permission for my face to be photographed:

Yes: ___ No: ___.

Also, all members of the research team, including research assistants and transcribers have signed non-disclosure forms in stating that they will not share that you participated in the study or any of your personal information with any one. This is a legally binding agreement.

Are there Risks or Benefits if I Participate?

The benefits to you in participating in this study are that you may have an increased self-awareness regarding your own identity and a chance to give voice to your particular experience. You will also have the opportunity to work with the researchers who will create works of art that can tell your story. This can be a very rewarding experience.

It is possible that you may feel psychologically or emotionally stressed, embarrassed, worried, or anxious as a result of your participation in the study. Revealing intimate details about how one defines one's gender can be a difficult process. Jean René will "check in" with you regularly during all parts of the study, to make sure that you are feeling comfortable. If you do not feel comfortable, please let Jean René know. You may need something clarified about the process or you may need some time out. He will be sensitive to these needs. If necessary, Jean René can refer you to agencies in your area that might be able to help you.

At the end of the first phase of the research (i.e. after the interview is conducted and the questionnaire has been completed) you will receive a payment of \$100. If you withdraw from this first phase of the research before it is completed, you will receive a pro-rated remuneration based on \$25 per half hour. If you choose to continue to participate in the second phase of the research, you will receive a second payment of \$200 when you have approved the art works in progress. If you withdraw from this second stage of the research before it is completed, you will not receive this second remuneration.

What Happens to the Information I Provide?

Electronic data will be stored on a secure and encrypted external hard drive. We will be using the Lima system which uses data encryption. Lima only stores files on one's own hard drives, as opposed to Cloud services which store files on those companies' servers. No data is ever stored on Lima's servers, therefore, only those whose computers are linked on the peer-to-peer network created through Lima have access to the data. In terms of encryption, "Lima encrypts all communications between devices on the peer-to-peer network using AES. Only these devices can decipher them with a unique dedicated key." (meetlima.com).

The data will be retained in order that it may be used in future artworks. Jean René is interested in developing Real-Life Cowboys into a part of a series of studies that compare experiences in cowboy communities around the world, and to observe possible changes in cowboy/cowgirl gender over a number of years. When changes to your contact information need to be made, you will need to contact Jean René so that he can continue to check in with you.

If you choose to withdraw during the first phase of the research, none of your data will be retained. It will be destroyed. Similarly, if you choose to withdraw during the second phase of the research, none of your data from the second stage will be retained. It will be destroyed. Once the artworks have been validated, you may also withdraw one month after the final validation of the artworks have occurred, none of your data will be retained. It will be destroyed. For the interview data, you may also withdraw six months after the interviews have been completed, none of your data will be retained. It will be destroyed.

Signatures

Your signature on this form indicates that 1) you understand to your satisfaction the information provided to you about your participation in this research project, and 2) you agree to participate in the research project.

In no way does this waive your legal rights nor release the investigators, sponsors, or involved institutions from their legal and professional responsibilities. You are free to withdraw from this research project at any time. You should feel free to ask for clarification or new information throughout your participation.

Participant's Name: (please print) _____

Participant's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Researcher's Name: (please print) _____

Researcher's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Questions/Concerns

If you have any further questions or want clarification regarding this research and/or your participation, please contact:

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If you have any concerns about the way you've been treated as a participant, please contact the Research Ethics Analyst, Research Services Office, University of Calgary at (403) 220-4283 / (403)220-6289; email cfreb@ucalgary.ca.

A copy of this consent form has been given to you to keep for your records and reference. The investigator has kept a copy of the consent form.

Audio Recording # _____