

POWER ENCOUNTER inspired by the artist Linda Stein and her artworks

ACTIVITY: DIAGRAM A (SUPER)HERO

LOOK: Print out or project images of the superheroes and fantasy icons Stein includes in her work. Superheroes and fantasy icons Stein often includes in her work are:

- Wonder Woman
- Storm
- Princess Mononoke
- Kannon
- Lady GaGa
- Girl with the Dragon Tattoo

You may also decide to look at superheroes or fantasy icons that inspire you.

DIAGRAM: By circling symbols and drawing arrows, label what you notice. What colors, symbols, facial expressions, poses or other images do you see that express power? NOTE: If you have printed out your images, you may decide to add your diagrammed superhero to the power tapestry you created in the **Power Tapestry** activity.

SHARE: Which colors, symbols, facial expressions, poses or other images did you notice? How did you label them and why?

DISCUSS: As we know Stein juxtaposes superheroes with everyday women to show the strength, grit and resilience of individuals who strove to keep themselves and others alive during the Holocaust. How are the superheroes you diagrammed and discussed similar or different to the photographs of the women in Stein's tapestries?

THINK ABOUT and CONSIDER: Referring to life in the camps as examples of heroism, in *Tapestries of Life*, Women's Studies scholar and author, Bettina Aptheker wrote, "My closing comment is about survival. We are talking of life and it is true—everybody wanted to live and to survive. But I guess we also have to emphasize what kind of life. Life which also has meaning—cultural and ethical meaning...Everyday life in the ghetto. It was really full of humanity, full of sacrifice and full of heroism. Don't ever think that only killing is resistance with a gun is the highest point of resistance."

BRAINSTORM:

- How might an everyday hero be visually represented as a superhero?
- How might an everyday hero look different from a superhero?
- What might an everyday hero say or do?
- How might an everyday hero present themselves?
- How might an everyday hero behave or act?
- What might an everyday hero wear?

PREPARE: For the next activity, **Self As Super(hero)**, think about the ways that your everyday actions could be considered heroic?