

LETTER no.4

Wednesday, November 4, 2015, Paris, France
on iversity / on [design lol redux website](#)
Part 1 - Myself / Week 01 - My Body



Greetings from the "Vie arrondissement de Paris".

: -)

When we arrived at the [Musée de la Bible et Terre Sainte](#), the [oldest mask in the world](#) was having a coffee with one of [Jean Cocteau's drawings...](#)

They both recognized us right away and diverted their whole conversation to today's brief.

So many nice and incredible things are happening to us!

If you feel like reading the whole conversation, you will find it at the end of this letter.



Question of the day:

To be original?

No. "To be good" is the answer.

Today, you have to work on something fairly complex. Focus on doing it well, not on doing it in an original way.



What will I do today?

Today is a very challenging day. We want you to make a “diptych”. Basically, you will merge 2 pictures into one using an application like “Layout”. Here we found it for both [iOS](#) and [Android](#).

Then, you will post your “collage” to Instagram using the hashtags [#ToBeGood](#) and [#DesignlolRedux](#).

Now, some simple instructions for you to follow:

Your two pictures need to be “assembled” one next to the other (this way, both pictures need to be “vertical”).

The picture to the left needs to be one of your face (a “selfie”).

The one to the right needs to be one of your face (“selfie”) wearing a mask.



What will I learn doing this?

You will learn to use a new application and most importantly, [to keep things simple.](#)

We ask you to insert lots of things into one single Instagram post...

Make sure the overall is nice and clean and easy to understand.

[Make sure you use simple backgrounds for both pictures.](#)

There is no need for any information overload today!



Why do we do this?

To go simple, thus powerful.

Check out Jean Cocteau's [drawings](#).

They are so nice, so simple.

They communicate so much! To be honest,

Jean Cocteau is one of our superheroes.

He was not a designer, but he was so cool and special. Very dear to us!

Nous t'aimons beaucoup Jean Cocteau!



Talking about drawings and simplicity, Paul Klee once said:

"a drawing is simply a line going for a walk."

(Paul Klee is another of our great passions).

Today, we do not need to draw

(we actually need to take + assemble pictures).

However, our final goal is to generate a nice and clear result.

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Something to remember:

To be good, not to be original

Further inspiration

Finally, do you know about these special [faces and masks](#) from [Bruno Munari](#)?

By the way, Munari is quite high in our superheroes hall of fame.

He designed so many nice things!

He designed a lot of stuff, and he wrote (and illustrated) so many [books](#).



Cocteau / Klee / Munari.

A very nice trio.

Transcript from the conversation between the oldest mask in the world and Jean Cocteau's drawing

Mask: Mr Cocteau. Today's brief is to make a very special diptyque: a self-portrait and a self-portrait with a mask.

Cocteau's drawing: it looks like an easy task, but it is not...

Mask: Indeed... And, do you think that our friends should try to be original?

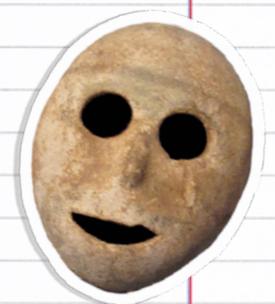
Cocteau's drawing: Originality consists in trying to be like everybody else – and failing.

Mask: I would take that as a no. But then, if you don't try to be original, what do you work on?

Cocteau's drawing: Know that your work speaks only to those on the same wavelength as you.

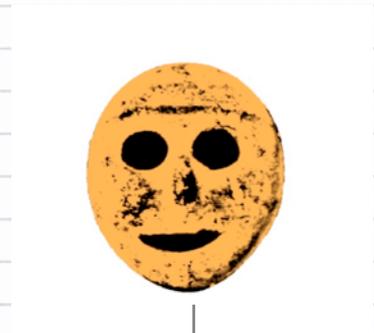
Mask: Can you explain better?

Cocteau's drawing: We shelter an angel within us. We must be the guardians of that angel.



Today's Postcard References

Jean Cocteau



a dish by
Jean Cocteau

the oldest mask
in the world

fm
Giulia
ASJ

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