

From: Diego Perrone – your artist-tutor
Re: I want to call myself...
Date: 27 April 2020 15.30
To: you, the members of the Artissima Junior team

Dear friends,

Who knows where you are as you read this, who you're with, what you're doing before starting out on this adventure together.

My name is **Diego Perrone**, I'm an artist, and to help you to imagine me better I'll give you a few hints about myself. I don't remember exactly when I began to be an artist, but people have always encouraged me to continue.

When I was more or less your age, I loved watching films and cartoons, and then I tried to draw the scenes and the characters. I never liked tracing, and I often drew directly on the things in my room, making believe it was a spaceship.

Now that I've grown up, I realize I cannot teach you to draw, but at most I can teach you to understand that if a drawing doesn't come out exactly as you imagined it, maybe it hides something that is even better... you just have to learn how to see it.

Today I would like to invite you to take part in a special ritual, a sort of **magic spell to officially become an artist**. I'd like you to help me to create a big team of artists who work together, even if they do not know each other personally. We artists are all working in our own studios, and together we are writing the history of contemporary art.

Do you want to join us?

Great! Let's get started!

First, choose a pen or a marker or any instrument that allows you to write with the colour you prefer.

Now think about your **pseudonym**, your artist's name. It's true, you know... many artists have a name that is not the one they were born with. A suggestive name with a fascinating sound that makes them special, a name that for the time of their performance can make them into a sort of superhero. Caravaggio, for example, was really named Michelangelo Merisi!

I for one have gotten so totally involved in my work that **I can't even remember my real name**. Now I am Perrone. Just think, in Spanish "perro" means dog, so maybe one day I can start drawing by using my tail.

You too, for your character, can think about what tools you would like to use to create your works.

There are no limits: if, for example, you would like to try drawing while you are singing, you could take the name of a singer; if you want to hold your breath, so you could be an underwater creature, and call yourself Flipper...

You can think up an amusing and improbable name, or you could read your real name backwards. You could combine the name of your best friend with the surname of your next-door neighbour. In short, you can really roam with your imagination and find a name that is perfect for your uniqueness, to communicate the things that make you special.

Once you find your pseudonym, you should **write it on the sole of your foot**. You can decide if it's the left foot or the right foot... the important thing is that no one should help you to do it. Difficult, isn't it?

Well, becoming an artist is difficult too, so **get ready to pass some tests**.

If you have written your new name under your foot and you're still eager to try something else, you can take a photo of your foot – without any help from anyone – standing still on the other foot, without losing your balance. You can keep that picture to remind you of the moment in which you officially became an artist.

Though I have been an artist for quite a while now, I am still going to perform this ritual, which will help me to activate **the right superpower for this special team we are creating**.

We'll be back in touch very soon. On **Wednesday the 29th**, I'll be back with a new challenge!

Diego

