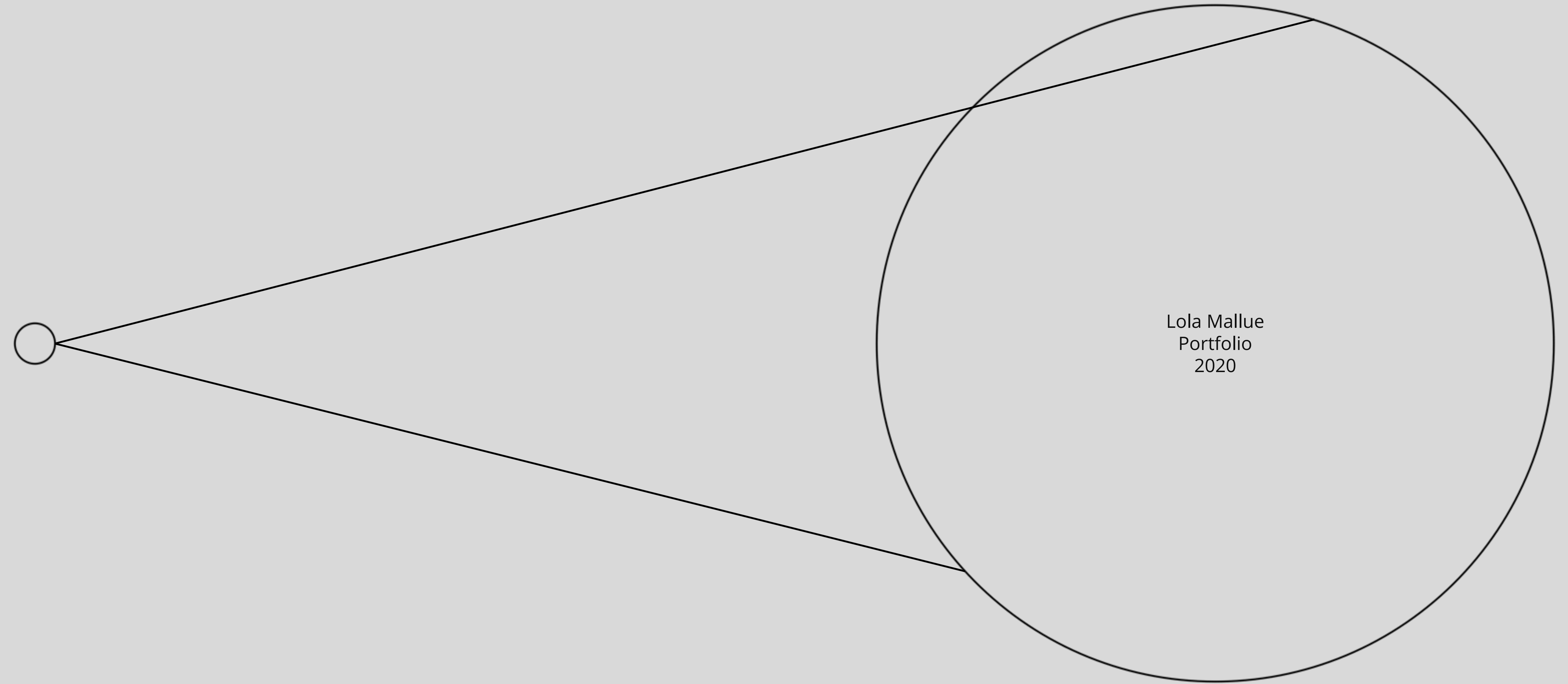
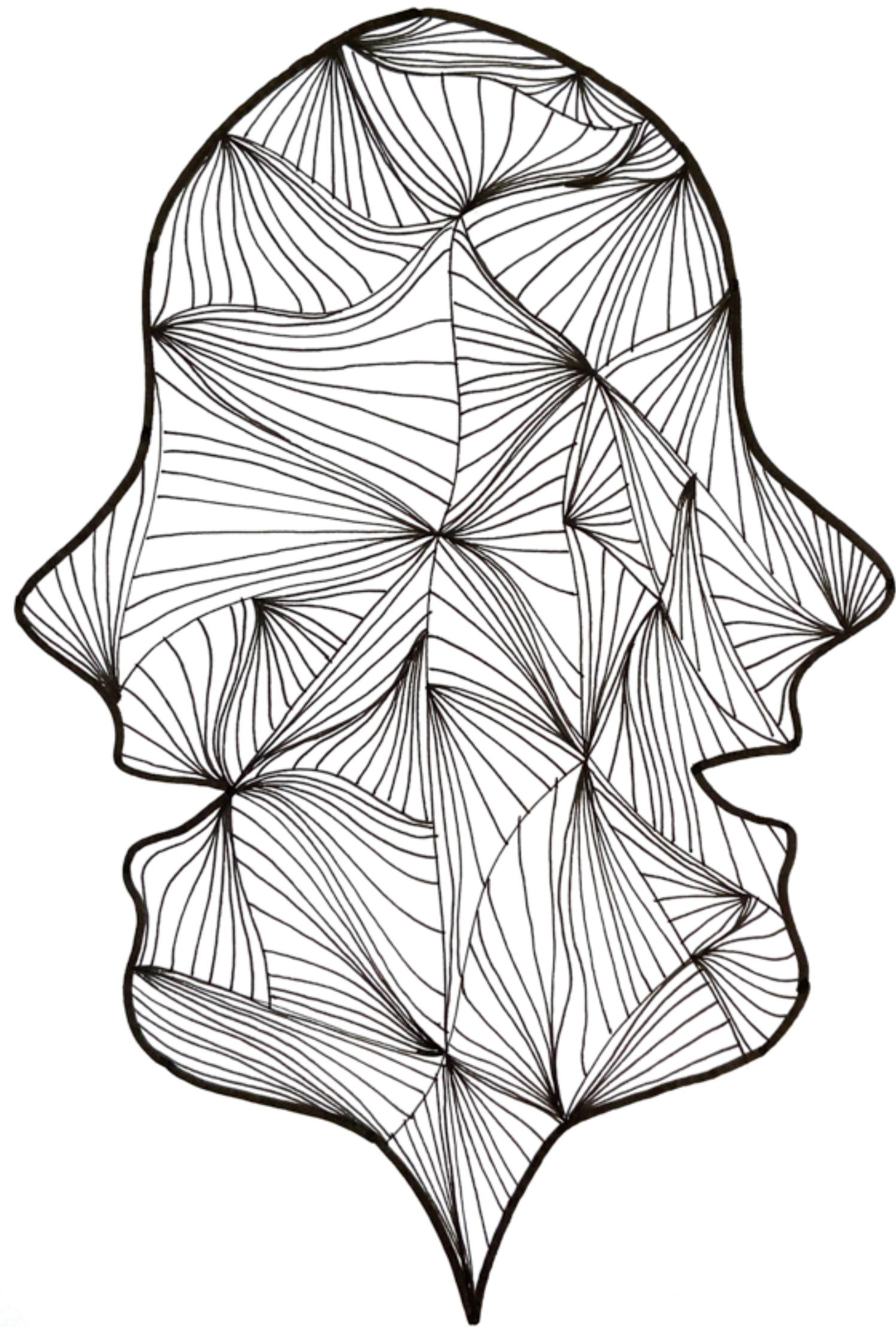




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Identical twins

My name is Lola Mallue and I have an identical twin sister named Clara. We look a lot like each other, we have the same size, same hair, almost the same glasses.

Throughout this portfolio, I will share some stages of the story of my life together with my pieces of art.

Drawing on an A4 white paper with black marker

Do I truly exist as a person ?

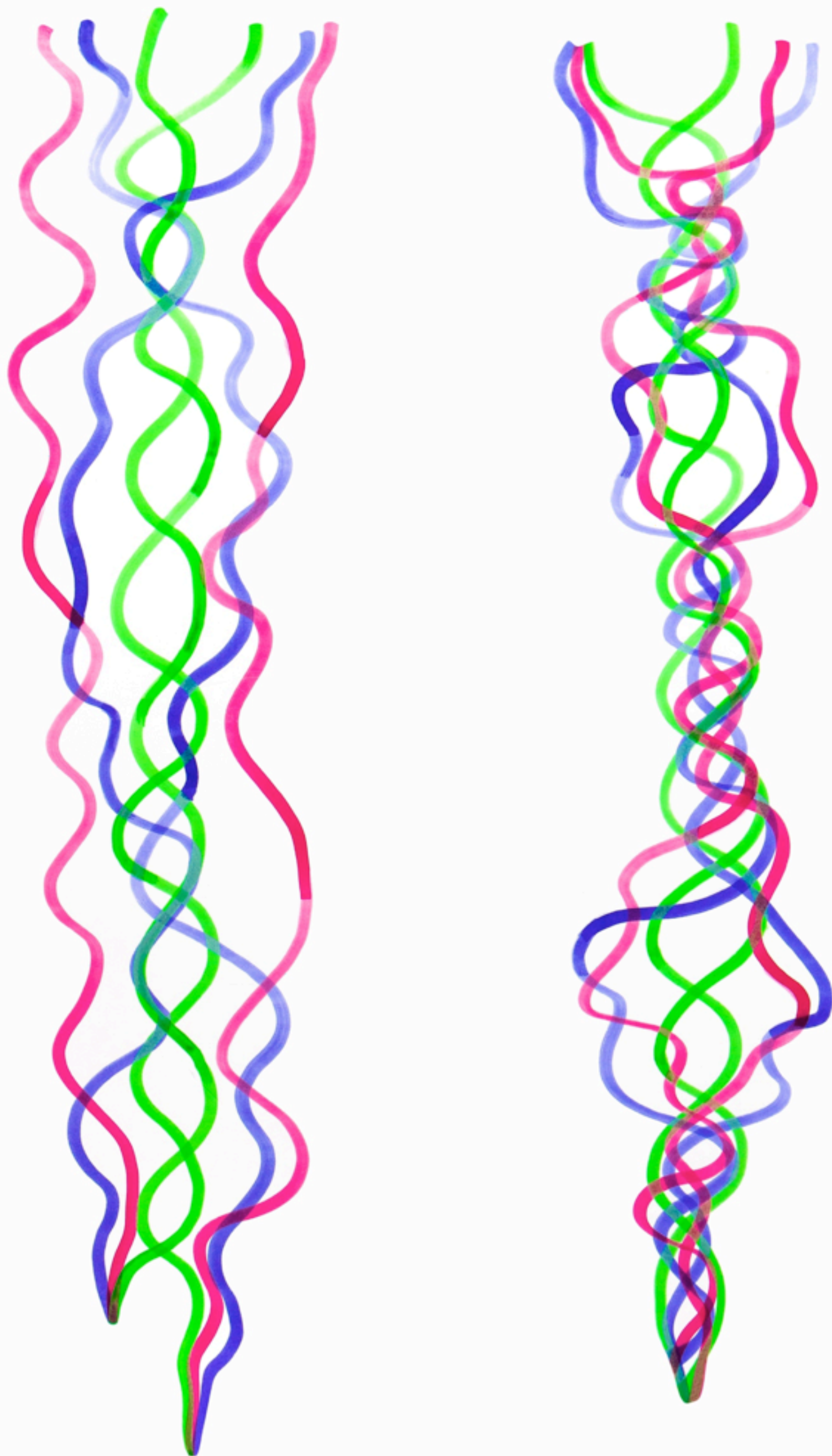
Recently, I had a conversation with my neighbor. We talked about my future projects. I really enjoyed speaking with him because I had the feeling that he cared about what I was saying.

We talked for about one hour and at the end of the discussion, he said: "say hello to Lola". He thought that he was speaking with my sister during the entire conversation.

It was not the first time that this happened. At that moment, it felt awkward and I thought the following: "if people always think that they are speaking with someone else, do I truly exist as a person ?"

Drawing on an A3 black paper with a white pencil and glued white paper forms





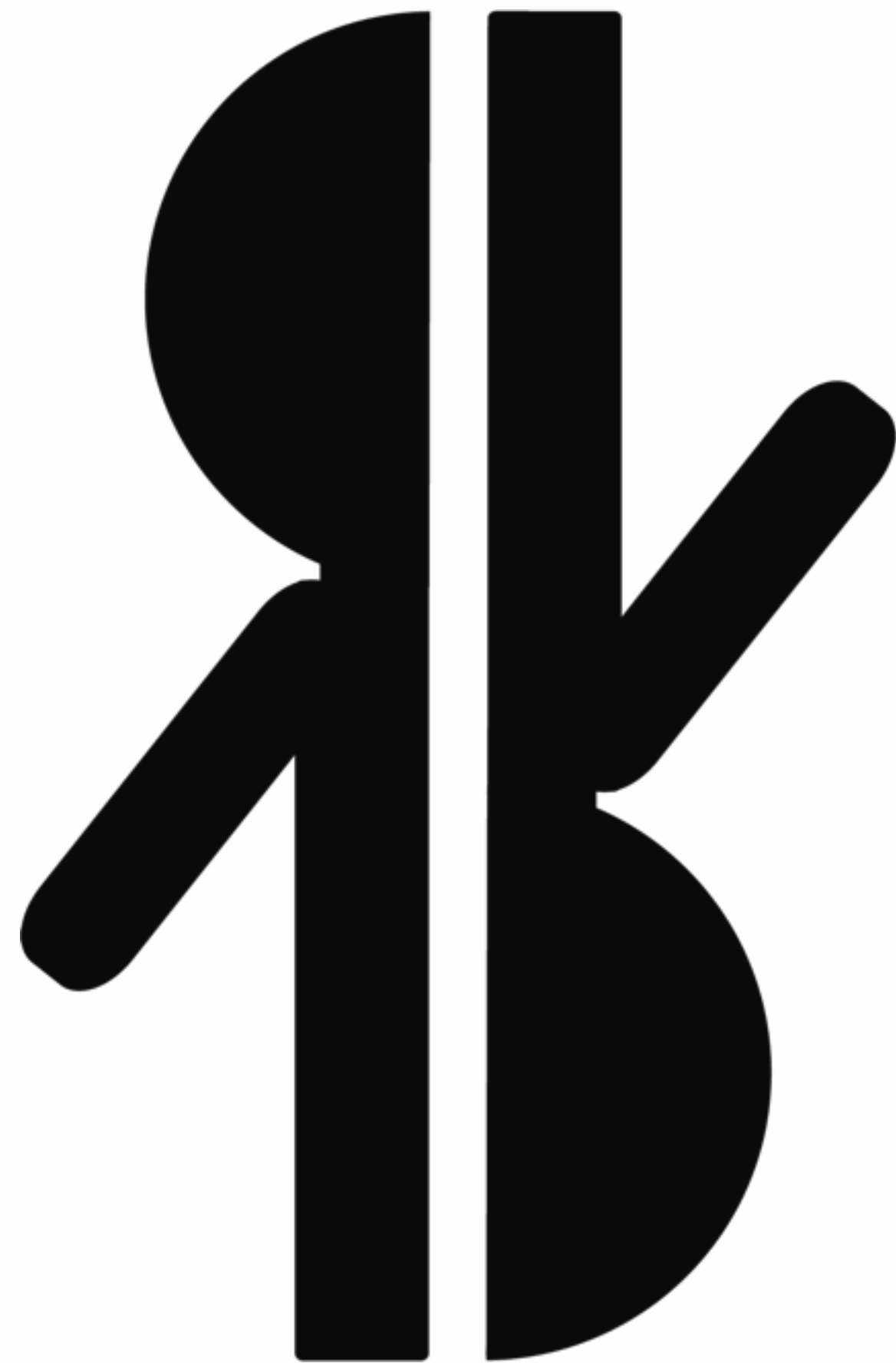
Lifelines

What is the difference between twins and brothers/sisters?

On the colorful painting, there are lines and each of them represents a person. The left is the side of brothers and sisters and the right is the side of twins. Each color symbolizes something: green is for family, blue for friendship and red for school. When the lines (with the same color) are crossing each other it means that two people are doing things together.

Here, we can see that the lines of the side of brothers and sisters are more sidelined because brothers and sisters spend less time together than twins.

Painting on an A2 white paper with Ecoline inks



I AM NOT CLARA

When you introduce yourself to someone, you usually say “I am...” followed by your name.

For a long time, when I introduced myself to people, the first thing that I said was: “I am not Clara”. That was the first thing that I wanted people to know about me. I did not even wanted them to know my name, just that I am not Clara.

Logo created on Inkscape software



COLLEGE ROYAL MARIE-THERESE

I AM
NOT
CLARA

I AM
NOT
LOLA

College Royal Marie-Thérèse

In my school, we are more than 3,000 students . Twins or not twins it is sometimes tough to exist as a person.

When we registered to secondary school we asked not to be in the same class because we were together in class for six years during primary school. It was difficult to be different from Clara because we would always be compared.

Even when separated, it was still tough because everyone called us 'the twins' which gave me angry feelings.

White banner of 110cm x 320cm attached on wood sticks with black and red paint





*Video stop motion
Tape and black marker*

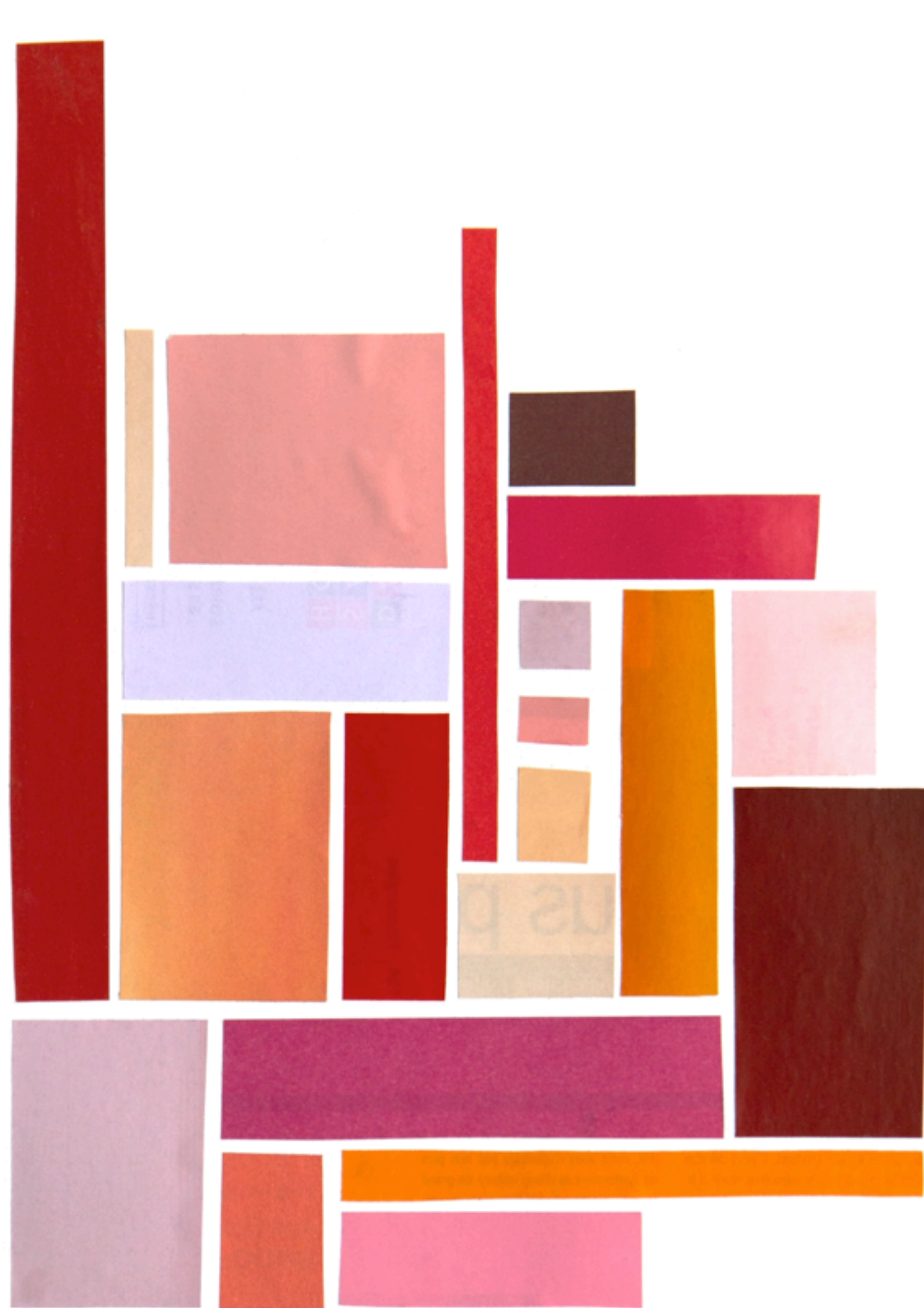




The doorbell

If people see me as my twin sister, should I then write
"I am not Clara" on my doorbell?

Red sticker



Colors

When my sister and I were kids, my parents had only one way to difference us: with the colors of our clothes. They decided that I would wear red, pink or orange clothes and my sister would wear blue or green. Even the wall of my bedroom was red, and the wall of my twin sister was green. In a nutshell, red meant Lola and green meant Clara for my entire family and friends.

If one day I wanted to wear something green, people would say that I could not because it is the color of my twin sister. It was smart of them as it made their life easier to differentiate us. They just needed to see the color of our clothes to know whether they were talking to Lola or Clara.

Now, we do not really use the color recognition system anymore since we are older and we wear whatever we want. It is sometimes still a little bit strange for me to wear a green dress, for instance, since I feel like I am not myself in the clothes colors of Clara.

*Pieces of paper cut from magazines and glued
Lola's colors (left) and Clara's colors (right)*

Right to be

Step by step, it becomes easier to exist.
Step by step, I begin to see my twin sister not as the
person preventing me from existing anymore.

I came to realise that it is fun to have someone with
such a strong connection.

As we grow, each of us makes her own experiences
and her own character and it becomes easier to feel
unique.

Digital photography, double exposure





Scouting

It has been more than ten years since I have started scouting. When I started, they gave each of us a neckerchief to highlight the start of our scouting journey. We got told that it is highly important to wear our neckerchief at every single meeting.

At the beginning, we all received the same neckerchief. Over time, we personalize it and make it unique by adding objects related to some specific memories. We intentionally make them different to identify their owners.

The neckerchief can be related to twins: we are born "the same" but the experiences make us different.

Lola's neckerchief (left) and Clara's neckerchief (right)

Rhetoric

My sister and I are in grade six at high school (called “rhetoric” in Belgium). In my country, there is a tradition which is called “Saint Nicolas”. It is a celebration for the sixth graders where we party and celebrate our last year of high school. During that day, we organise a big show and all the sixth graders have to wear a scientist apron with a big drawing on the back together with signatures from all of our friends.

My twin sister and I decided to do something similar, thus, I chose to draw Chip & Dale on our apron. We thought it was funny because those two also look a lot like each other, but they also don’t have the same character.

We did not want them to look exactly the same, so I added sweaters on the drawings: a blue sweater for Clara and a red one for myself.

We are now able to play and laugh about our physical similarities but we still do not want people to think we are exactly the same.



Digital photography

Finally

As we can see trough this portfolio, having a twin sister is not always easy.

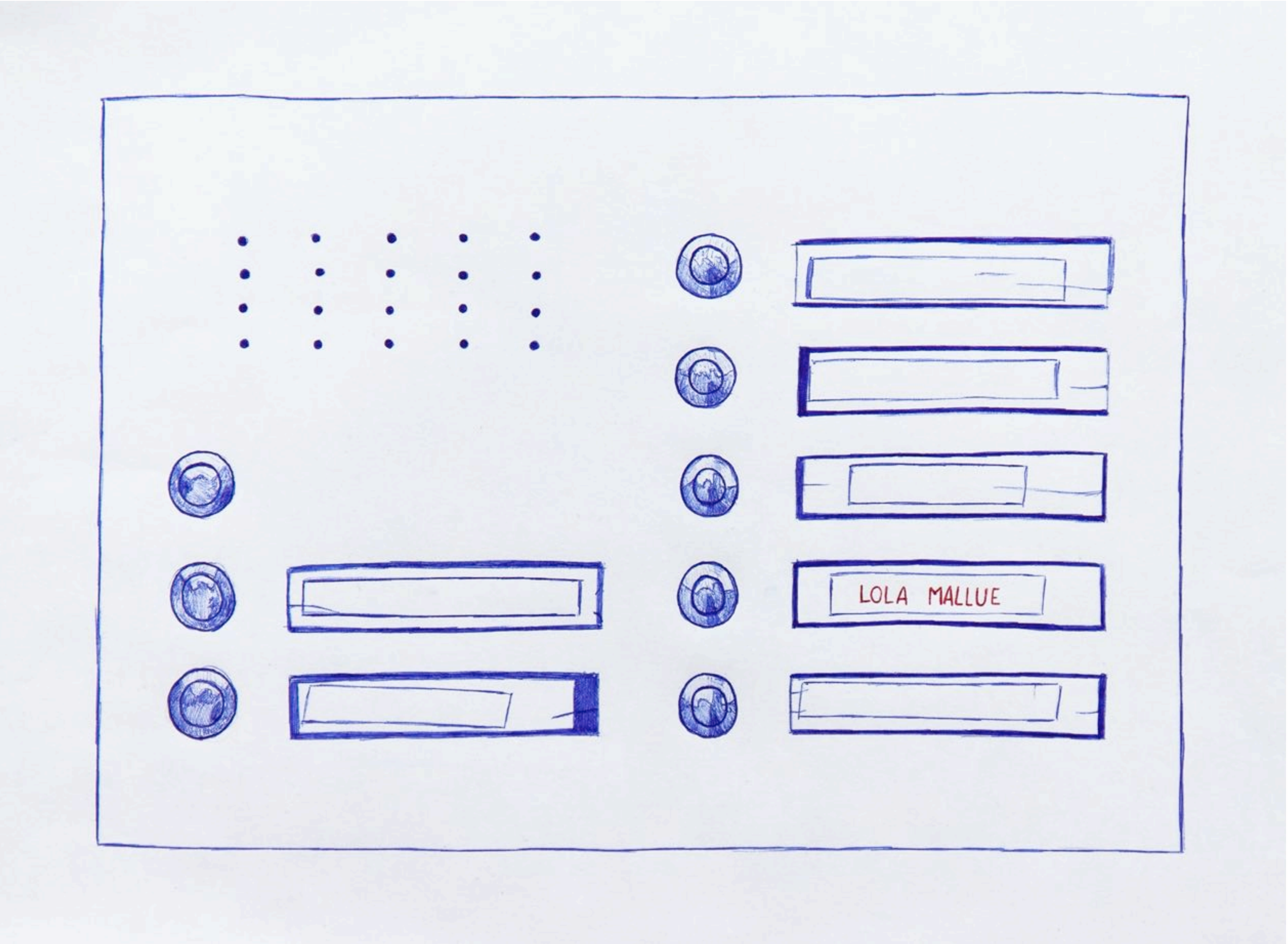
I have gone through some stages of my life where I was not feeling good. In that time, I did not have self-confidence and I wanted to gain gratitude from my parents and friends. When we were young, my sister discovered a passion for dancing and my family always went to her shows and admired her for her talent. I myself thought that I did not have any passion. Indeed, I would always change sports because I got bored or because I did not like practising them anymore. It was not easy for me to see my sister feeling fulfilled and being admired by everyone when I myself could not enjoy any sports...

Later, I found out that I really like art. I started drawing things and people started to compliment me about my pieces of art. I was then feeling much better because I gained self-confidence and I found myself a passion.

When we grow up, we learn to be different and to have our own character. Today, I do not feel like I am in my sister's shadow anymore. We now live as two different persons.

I think that having a twin sister helped me growing up. I feel more mature because I know what I want and what I don't want, what I like and what I don't like.

Now, I don't want people to know that I am not Clara anymore, I want them to know that I am Lola, and no one else.



Drawing on an A4 white paper with a blue pen