Self Portrait
Acrylic paint on canvas

For several years, I have been filling my bedroom with decorations, art, posters and mementos. Each feature of my room represents part of my personal identity. Over the course of the painting's creation, my friends and family noticed small details in the composition, sparking many conversations about memories and shared interests. I painted my pet cat, childhood toys, photos of friends and family, artworks I have created, the carpet and walls of the room that I have grown up in. Spending time on each detail in the piece brought back memories, making me think about what each object means to me. My painting explores the way that I use my room to express myself and explore my identity.

The figure on the bed is comprised of grey and white checked squares, reminiscent of a digital PNG file texture. This link to an unfilled digital canvas allows the audience to see the room, rather than the figure, as the 'self'. The anonymity of the figure shows how my identity is projected onto my room: my personality, interests and identity are clearly displayed to the audience by the room, without me even being present in the image. The figure's anonymity also invites the audience to project themselves into the room, seeing aspects of their own identity in the details of the painting.