

Persona Handwriting

Hi Linda, all,

You are absolutely right about the need to protect a Persona-writer and not try to rip his mask off his face, as this would shatter his defenses and might be devastating.

We had such an amazing experience in the IGC congress in Quebec last May. There was a very important and successful public figure who gave her hw and drawing tests for us to analyze . We worked in groups doing comparative analysis, and also learned about the analysis of the hw by different experts of "pure" methods, like Szondi, Mueller-Enskat, Anthony-Roman (this part was published in our new journal "Global Graphology"), and then she came there to give her feedback publicly.

In this case, as with many Persona writers, the additional tests (Wartegg picture completion test, Tree Test, Star-Wave Test) give very important clues for the authentic inner processes, that are mostly quite different from the overt behavior, seen in the artificial, socially-adjusted, more conscious hw. The combination of hw and tests than gives the whole picture, explaining why the person was uncomfortable in his own skin in the first place, and needed the protecting mask. Of course, none of the things that we had understood was opened up, as it would need a thorough therapeutic process, and is not necessarily needed when she functions well in a Persona-supporting environment.

It was fascinating to watch the woman behave according to our expectations from her hw, and avoiding sensitive issues seen from her tests. We did not discuss our findings with her. It was easy to notice their influence and the severe defensive cover-ups. This has nothing to do with honesty, though, but with awareness. The Persona does not cause anybody to lie, but only to filter out stimuli from the inside and the outside that might be harmful . The protective role of this mask should never be forgotten.

In psychoanalytic terms, Laing spoke of the "false Self" of the Schizoids, which is considered by them as their true personality, and they strongly believe in this "second nature", which often becomes nearly "first nature".

Needless to say, the mask often gets very heavy, and the danger of its cracking puts an additional load on their unacknowledged problems.

Dafna

----- Original Message -----

From: [Linda Larson](#)

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Sent: [Friday, October 15, 2004 5:20 PM](#)

Subject: [\[Vanguard2\] Persona](#)

I think of persona as a creation of characteristics the person thinks is more acceptable than their spontaneous self. It is a construction and therefore the writing is drawn instead of freely written (which, in an of itself, is *one* of the aspects of deceit).

Some people use an artificial baseline (ruler writers), which suggest the opposite of what it appears to be (as extremes do). The ruler writer feels barely in control, emotionally. Structure, therefore, is demanded in their writing, their appearance and their living environment...if things are "perfect," one can not be criticized - here, perfection is a distraction from the emotional turmoil the writer is experiencing. The writer is committed, or "hard wired" to the image of control. It takes a qualified therapist to work through a persona, over a long period of time.

The graphologist (unless qualified and the writer is their patient) must not overstep the boundaries the writer has set. The assessment of the writing, in my opinion, should validate the external needs of the writer, and how important external acceptance is. The writer's need for control supercedes revelation by the analyst.

Linda Larson.
