Twins have been studied in all areas of science; however there is a gap in the equivalent to this research in the area of contemporary art. We are interested in finding out how the biological, genetic and environmental condition affects twin artists in relation to the discourse they present, whether it is a unique discourse because they are twins, and whether they all share common features. It is for this reason that we aim to provide, through this theoretical and practical study, a review of the identity of twin artists, the creative process expressed through their art and thus contribute to fields as diverse as science and art.

Our in-depth study of the subject is based on four methodological procedures. Firstly, twin artists were directly contacted and then interviewed utilising a standard questionnaire. Secondly, existing information on twins was examined through a review of specific literature on twins such as Twins by Lawrence Wright and Entwined lives by Nancy Segal, and of artistic theory literature such as Double act by Mark Gisbourne, Künstlerbrüder by León Krempel, catalogues of artists ...regarding as... by Christine and Irene Hohenbüchler, or Twin Perspectives by The Singh Twins, and through visits to artists’ personal websites and exhibitions. Thirdly, this foray into the world of twin research included a period of time at the Department of Twin Research at King's College (London) and attendance at the 4th Congress of the International Society of Twin Studies (ISTS), a triennial event, the most recent of which was held in Florence in April 2012. Fourthly, the creative process itself makes a crucial methodological contribution in developing the artwork. The study explores different aspects directly influenced by the theoretical development of the thesis that was developed in parallel. The four aspects to be studied, scientific, mental, emotional and spiritual are applied to personal experience and the analysis of identity. For each aspect specific methods from each area were used that together create a whole.

As a result we have observed that most of the 103 registered cases of twin artists are monozygotic (75.7 %) and have chosen the same profession (91 %) as opposed to fraternal twins (10.6 %) who don’t work so frequently in the same profession (54.6 %) with evidence of a genetic predisposition. The type of work, however, which we have divided into joint (monozygotic 69.2 % and dizygotic 27.3 %) and individual (monozygotic 30.8 % and dizygotic 72.7 %) is also shaped by environmental factors, creating a correlation between twin typology and method of work. This information together with the creation of 47 pieces of personal work on the subject have enabled us to observe that the fact of having been born twins affects art, and therefore, being twins is influenced by biology, genetics and the specific environment surrounding them. Thus, the art created by twins becomes part of the contemporary movement of research on personal identity where being a twin is an identifying mark that influences both the work itself and its execution.