

**WHITNEY**

**KID**

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**2019  
BIENNIAL**

**ACTIVITY  
GUIDE**

**S**

# WELCOME

The Whitney Biennial is an exhibition of what's happening now in American art. This exhibition features the work of 75 artists and artist collectives working with a wide range of media, practices, and ideas. Many of the 2019 Biennial artists explore artmaking as a way to reimagine how we see the world around us and our own place in it. Some artists draw attention to important social and political issues, while others ask us to pause, reflect, and consider new ways of experiencing life today. A few of these artists might even change your mind about what art can be!

Some of the activities in this guide were designed by the Biennial artists themselves. We hope they will inspire the artist in you too. Have fun!

## **Join Us**

Visit the Museum on Saturdays and Sundays for Open Studio, our drop-in artmaking workshops for families with kids of all ages. Check out [whitney.org/Families](http://whitney.org/Families) for a full list of our Family Programs.

## **Please Note**

There are several works in the Biennial exhibition that may not be appropriate for children. Adults should use discretion.

# FLOOR 6 BRAIN SPACE

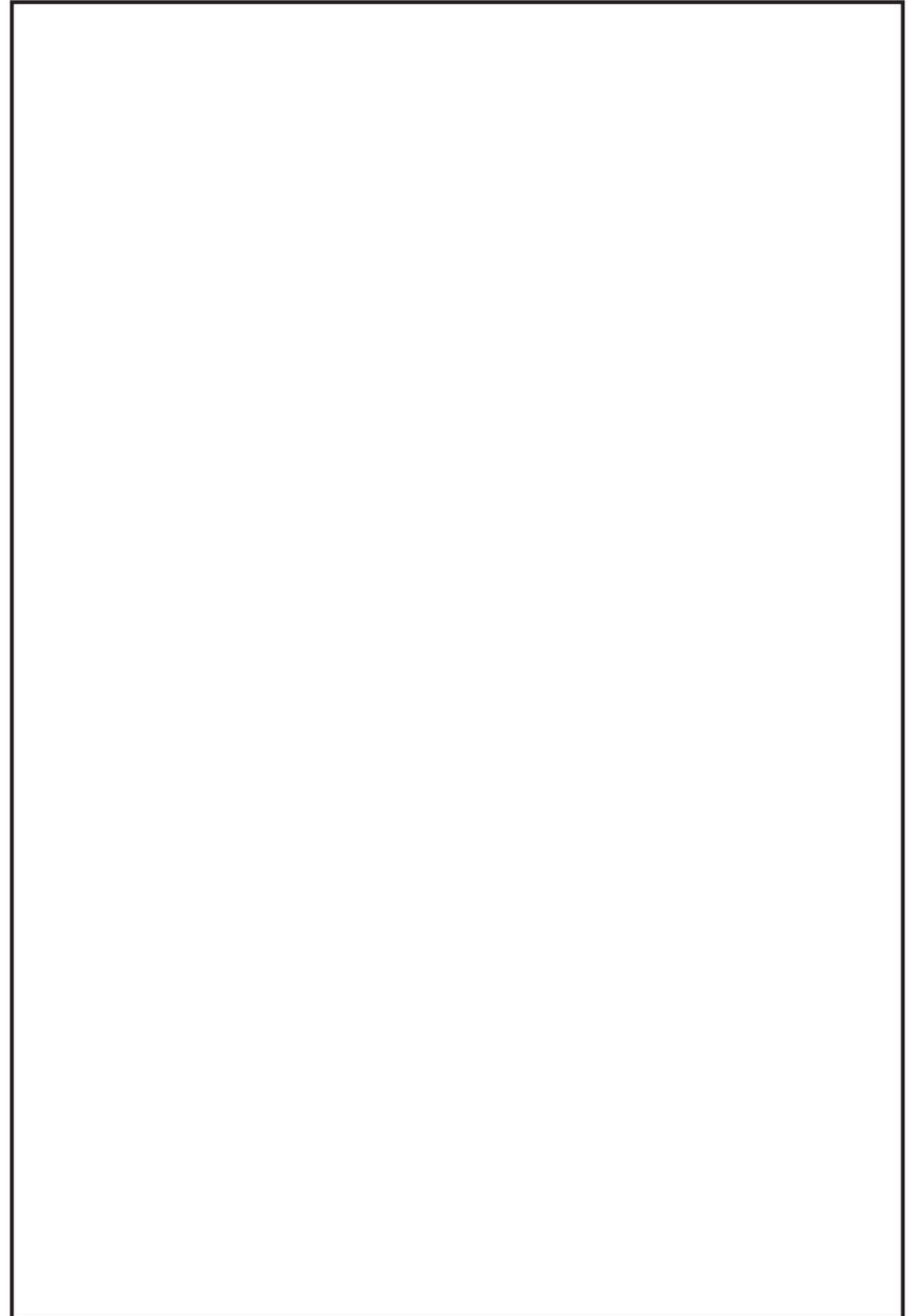
What's going on in your head right now? Choose one idea and draw it!

## **Calvin Marcus**

Paintings, 2018–19

Calvin Marcus has described his paintings as “attempts to depict an interior brain space where there isn’t gravity but ideas and thoughts that are colliding and moving.”

Pick one painting and look at it closely. What do you think he was thinking about when he made this work?



# FLOOR 6

# HURRICANE

# MARIA

**Daniel Lind-Ramos**  
*Maria-Maria*, 2019

The title of this sculpture refers to Hurricane Maria, a devastating storm that hit Puerto Rico in 2017. Notice the materials that Daniel Lind-Ramos used to make *Maria-Maria*. Her head is a coconut from near the artist's home in Puerto Rico. Her robe is made of the blue plastic tarps used by FEMA (the Federal Emergency Management Agency) to patch damaged buildings. Today, many tarps still remain on the unrepaired buildings.

What else can you find in this sculpture? Look for:

A metal basin

A wooden box

A wooden seat

A lamp

A palm tree trunk

Beads

Think about when and where the artist may have found these objects. If they could speak, what story might they tell?

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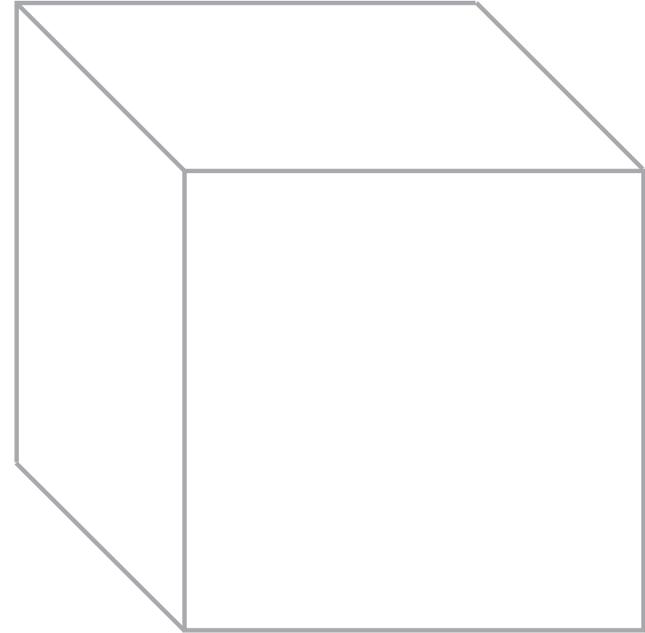
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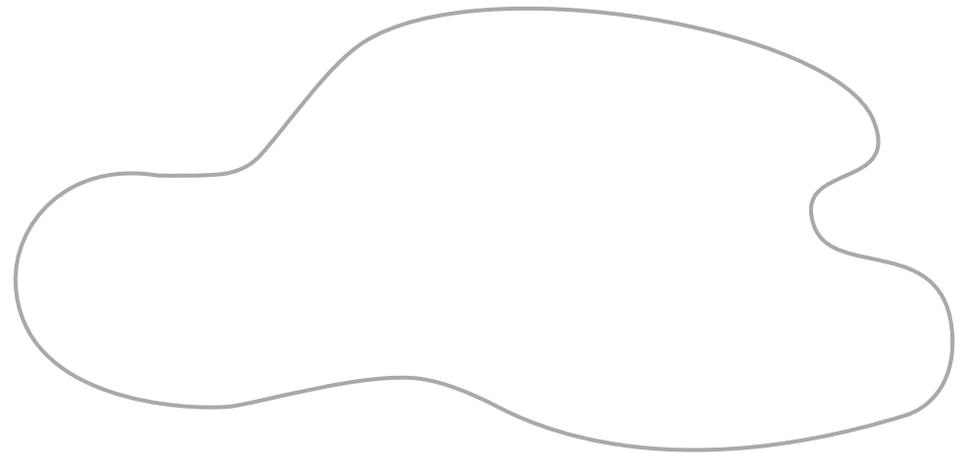
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# FLOOR 6 FROZEN STUFF

If you were going to make a frozen artwork, what objects would you include? Draw them in this ice cube.



What would your artwork look like if it melted?  
Draw it here.



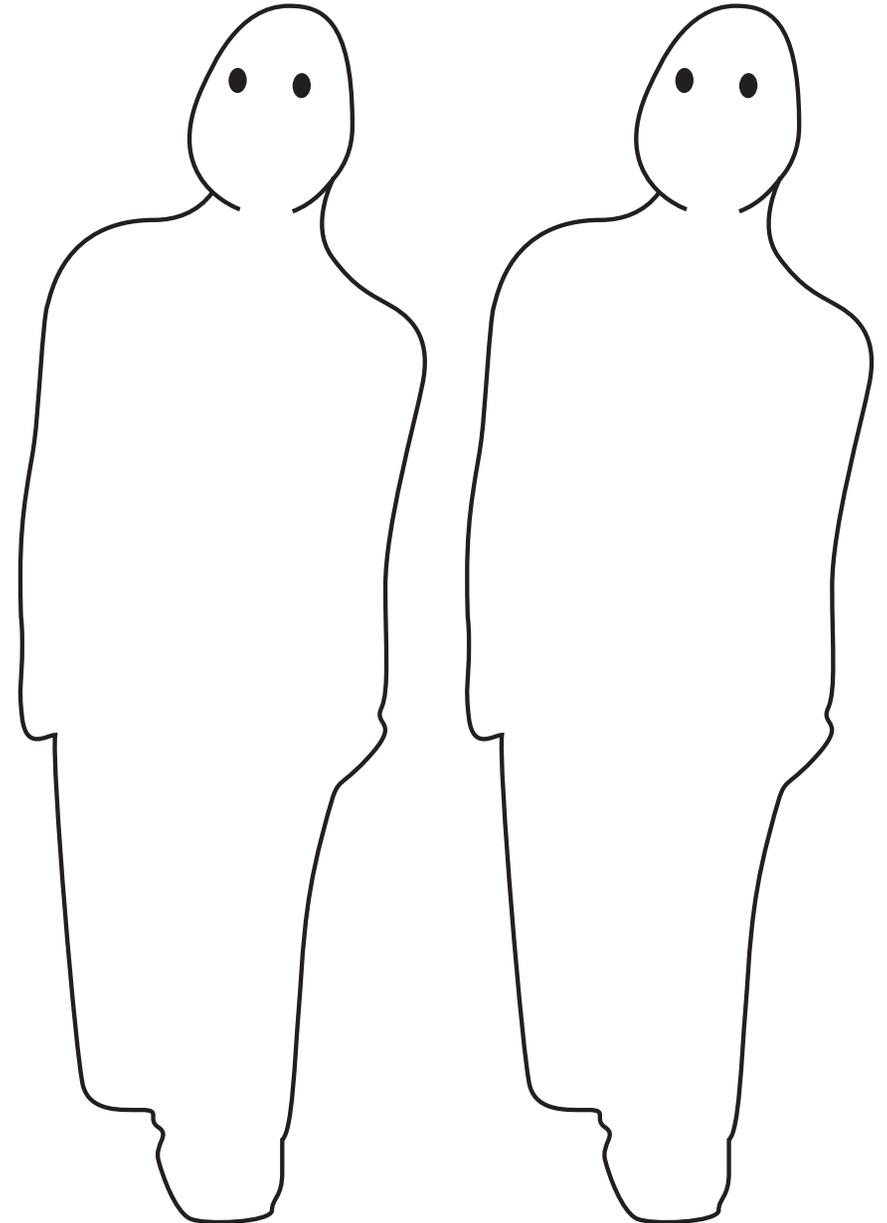
**Brian Belott**  
Frozen works, 2018

Brian Belott puts all kinds of stuff in his artwork—such as hair gel, toothpaste, rocks, and clothing. For his “frozen works,” he suspends various items and food in blocks of ice. While frozen, they create a stained-glass effect. After they thaw, they become a stinky mess. Explore one of the frozen pieces. What can you find?

# FLOOR 6

## WHO MAKES THE RULES?

What are some of the rules that you follow at home or at school? Moss invites you to write those rules inside these figures and add facial expressions to match! When you get home, color in your figures, cut them out, or crumple up the paper to make your own sculpture.



### **Ragen Moss**

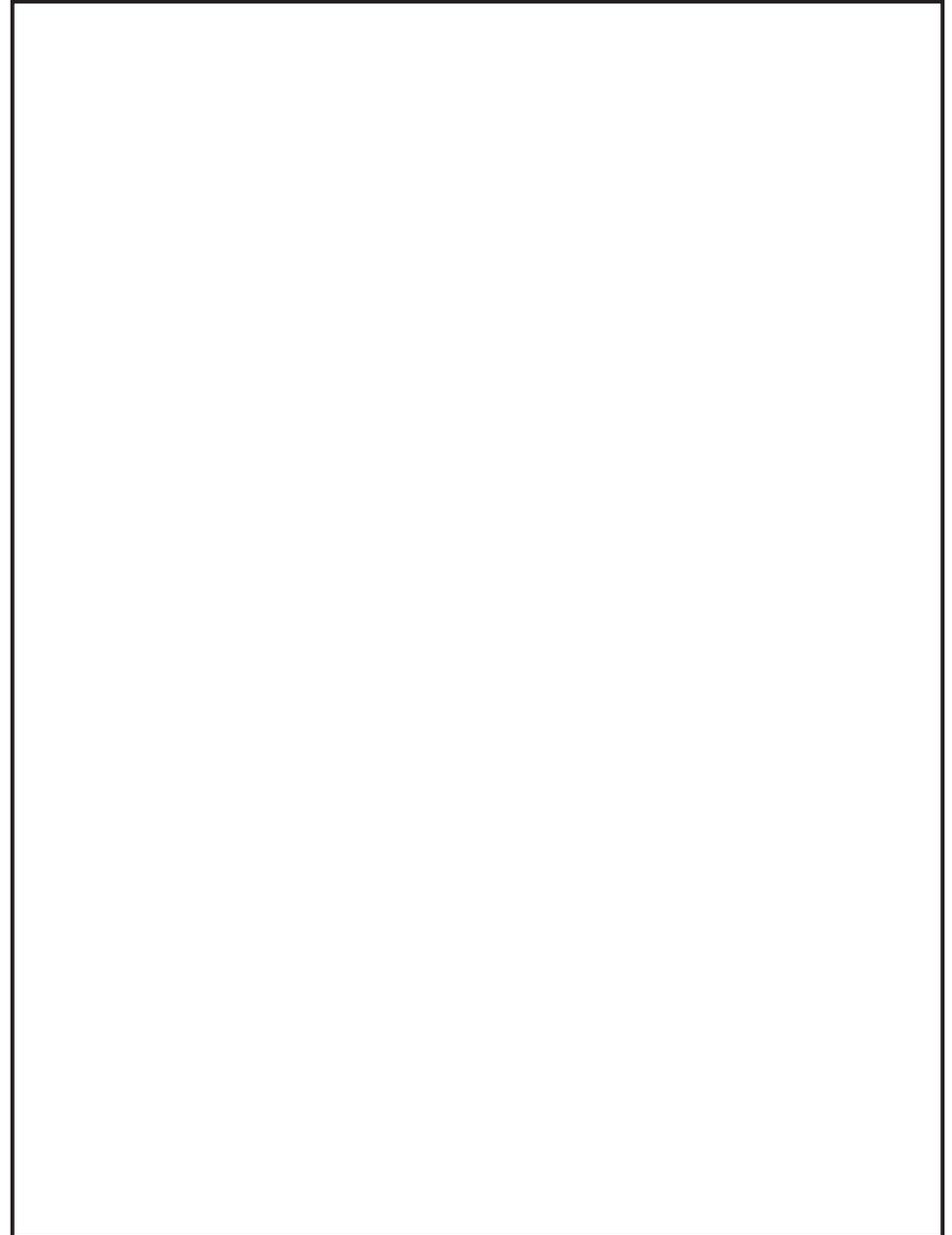
Sculptures, 2018–19

Ragen Moss makes colorful, hanging sculptures that often include words. Can you spot the words? What do you think they mean? Some of the words are rules (or ideas about rules) that the government applies to all of us. What makes a rule fair or not? Who creates the rules?

# FLOOR 6

## KEEPING WATCH

If you were a sentinel, what would you want to protect? Draw yourself watching over something or someone. Add clues about what you are protecting—for example, plants, animals, a person, or something else important to you.

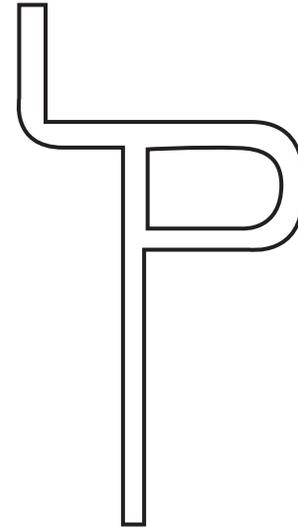
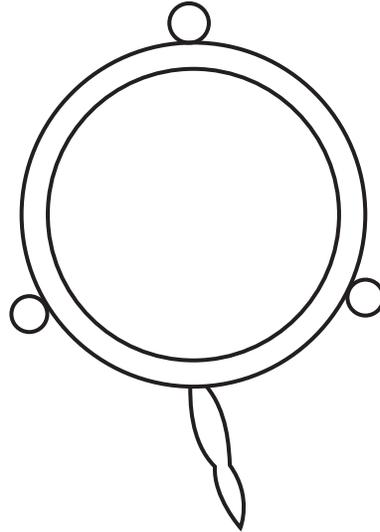
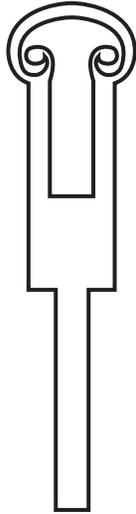
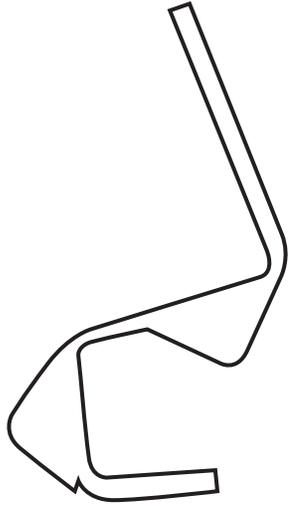


**Wangechi Mutu**  
*Sentinel I & II, 2018*

In these sculptures, Wangechi Mutu combined mud, petrified trees, and stones on a framework so that they appear to form larger-than-life feminine bodies. She calls them *Sentinels*. A sentinel protects, guards, or keeps watch over something. What do you think these sentinels might protect?

# FLOOR 6 IMAGINED ALPHABET

Lee invites you to find these five glyphs in her installation.



As you find the glyphs, think about what they might mean and write your ideas here.

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**Maia Ruth Lee**  
*LABYRINTH, 2019*

Maia Ruth Lee is interested in language. She has made a series of objects that she calls “glyphs.” They are like symbols from an imagined alphabet. Have you seen shapes like these before? These glyphs are made of metal scraps from New York City fences and window bars!

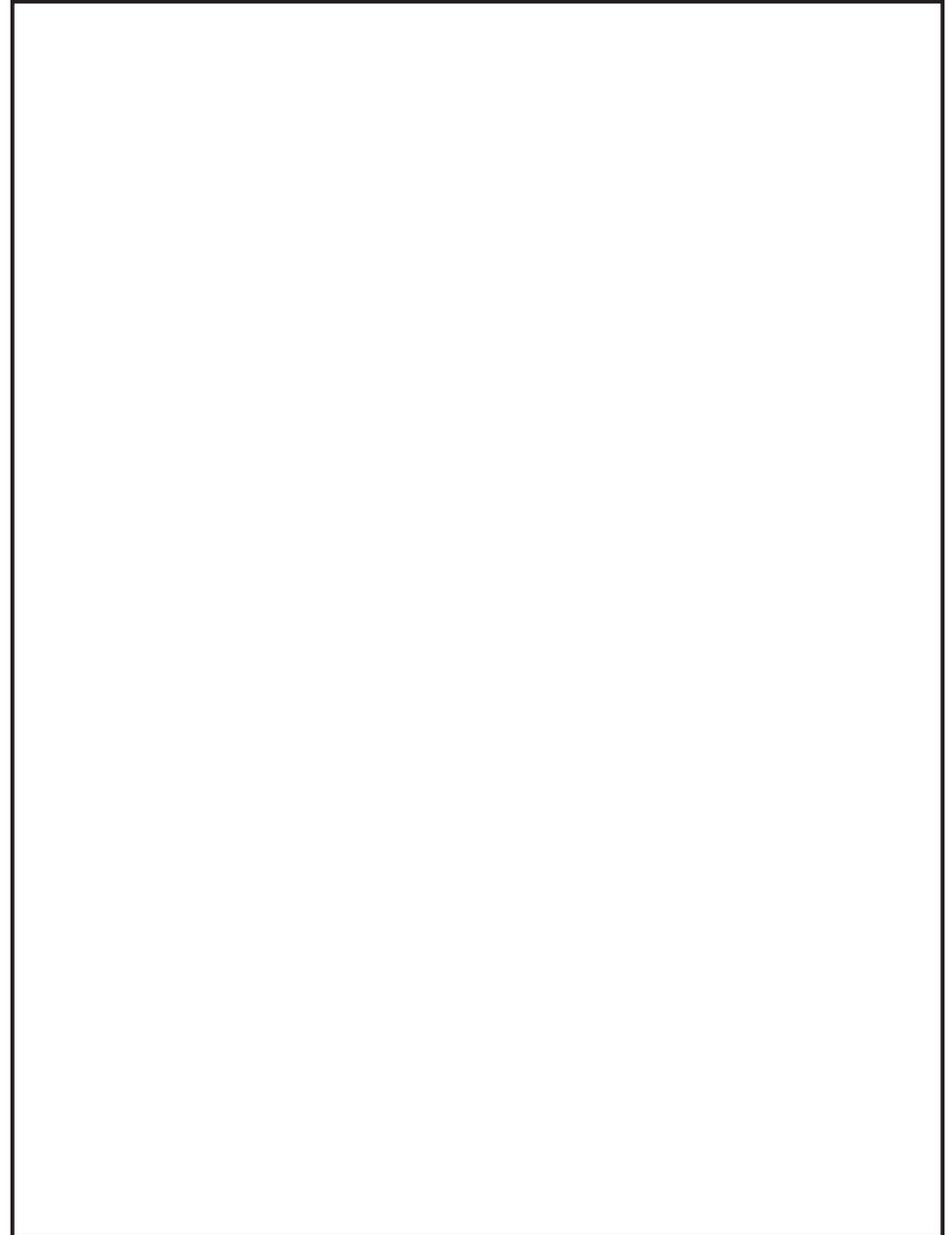
Next, check Lee’s glyph chart to see what they mean to her!

# FLOOR 5 BUILDING BITS

Find two features of the Whitney's building—for example, a floorboard, a section of ceiling, a corner, a light fixture, a window, a doorway, or part of the view out of a window. Combine them into one drawing.

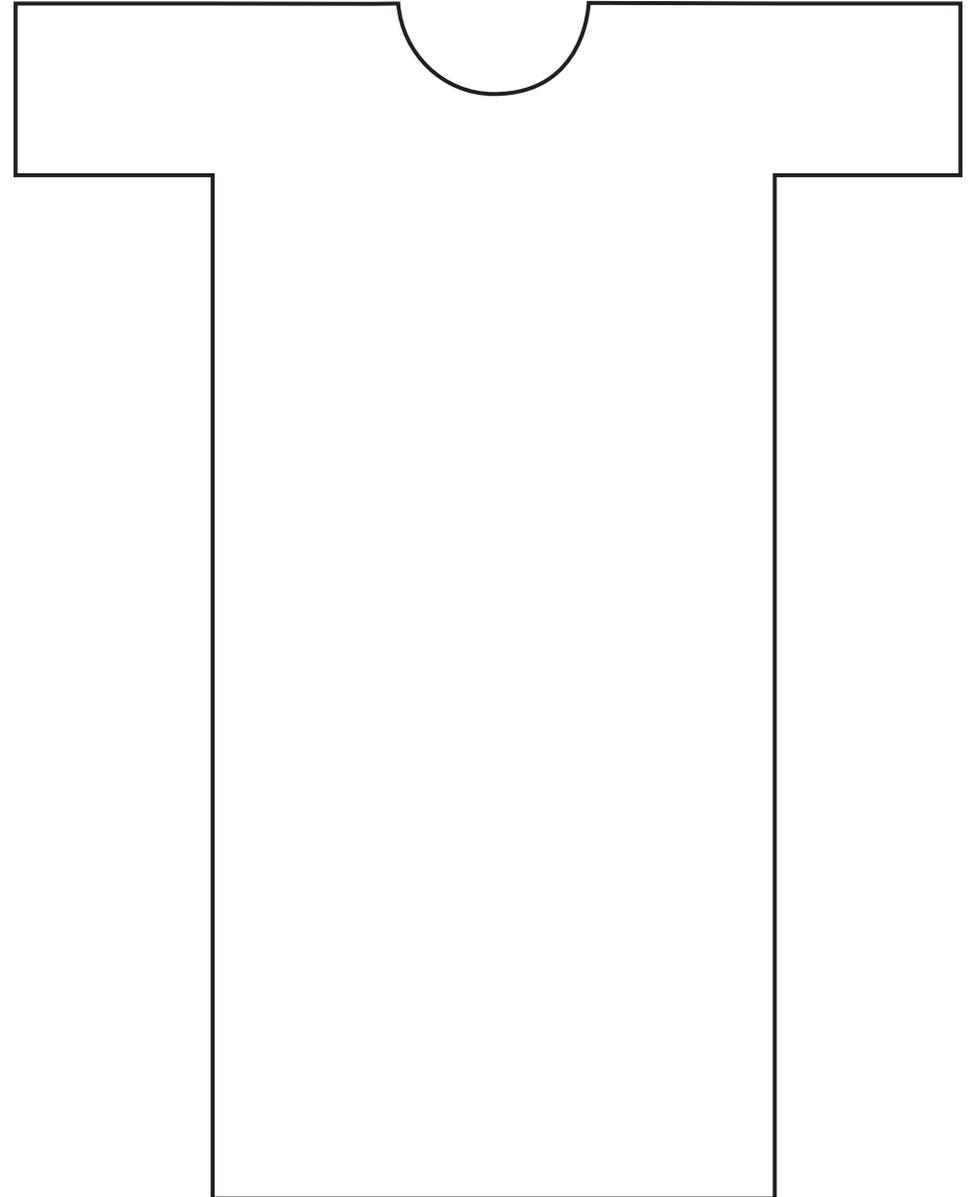
**Milano Chow**  
*Drawings, 2019*

Milano Chow's works on paper combine elements of architecture and decoration—a doorway, a mantelpiece, a window—suspended in flat space. Chow has said about her drawings, "You simultaneously know and don't know what you're looking at." Look carefully at one of these drawings. What can you see?



# FLOOR 5 DREAM GARMENT

Gibson invites you to design your own dream garment. Fill it with images and words that best represent you and your culture. Imagine where you would wear your garment and how it would make you feel.



## **Jeffrey Gibson**

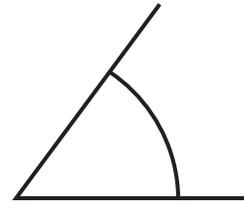
*PEOPLE LIKE US and STAND YOUR GROUND, 2019*

In his garment sculptures and installations, Jeffrey Gibson uses colors and geometric patterns that relate to both modern art and Native American objects. He combines beadwork and fringe with found quilts and fabrics to represent his own background, including his Choctaw and Cherokee heritage. Look at Gibson's work. What do you notice?

# FLOOR 5

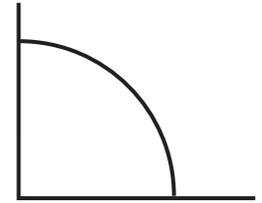
## WHAT MAKES YOU MAD?

Kim invites you to show how mad you get about certain things. Outside the shapes, write about what makes you mad. Shade in the shapes to represent your degrees of rage. Press hard with your pencil for darker shades (more rage) and softly for lighter shades (less rage).



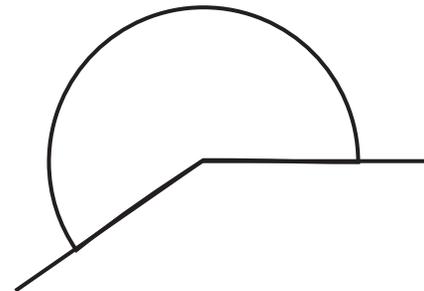
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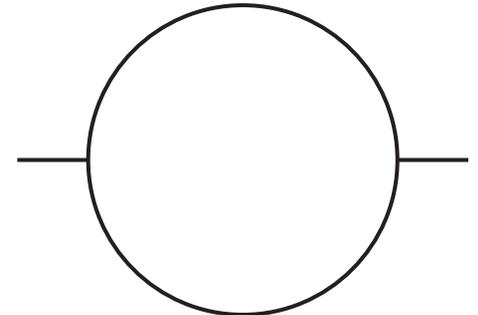
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**Christine Sun Kim**

*Degrees of Deaf Rage drawings, 2018*

In these drawings, Christine Sun Kim uses diagrams and words to describe some of the situations deaf people encounter in everyday life. These situations make her mad—sometimes more mad, other times less mad. Kim believes that it is okay to be mad, and that it's important to understand your rage before you choose to ignore it or take action. What makes you really mad? A little mad?

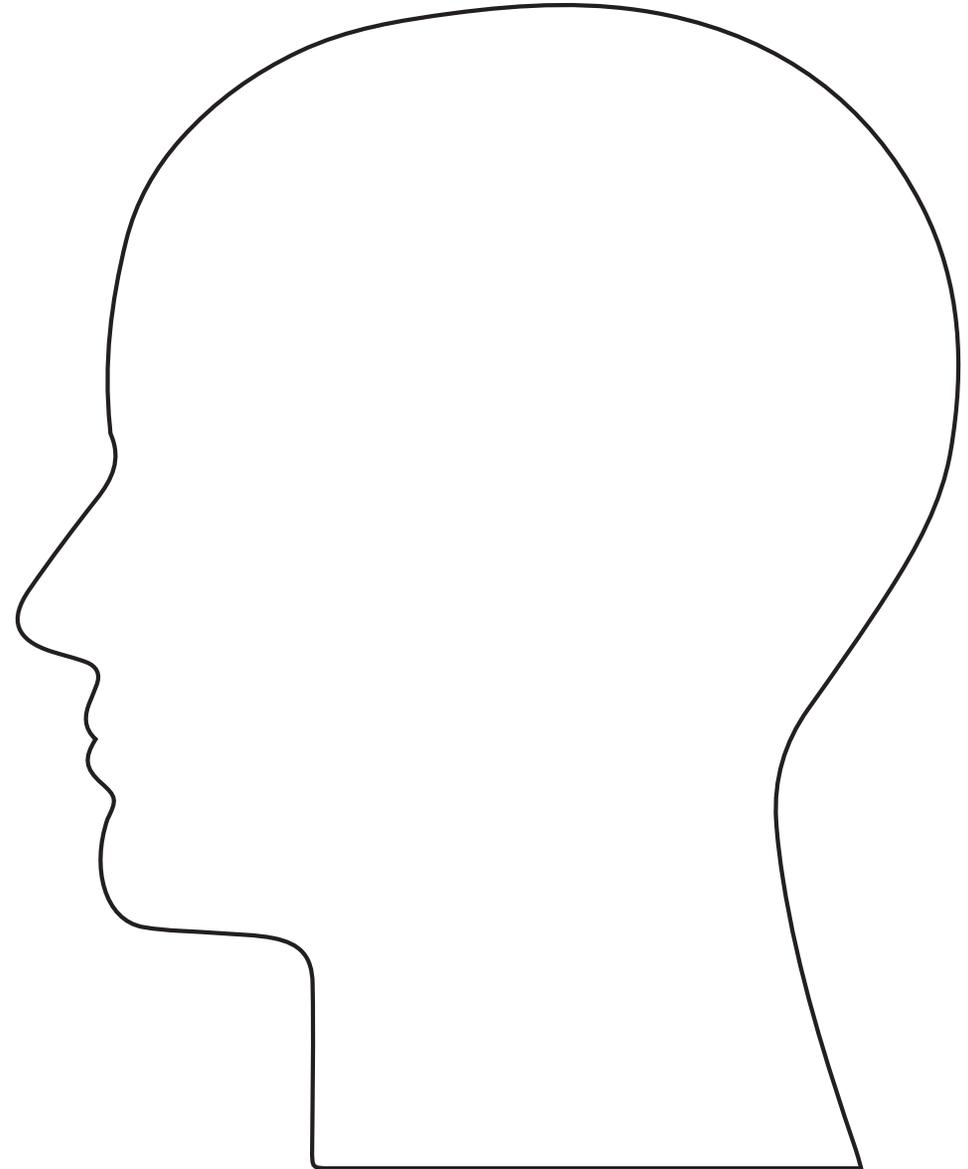
# FLOOR 5

## UNUSUAL VIEW

Monaghan invites you to pretend that the inside of your brain is a room. Draw the room and all the stuff inside it. What will you include? Why?

**Keegan Monaghan**  
Paintings, 2016–19

Keegan Monaghan's paintings depict an imaginary world of oversize, cartoonlike everyday objects. Their unusual points of view might make you feel like you're inside the artist's head. Pick one of Monaghan's paintings and explore it. Are you looking in or out? Close up? Or poking your nose into someone else's business?

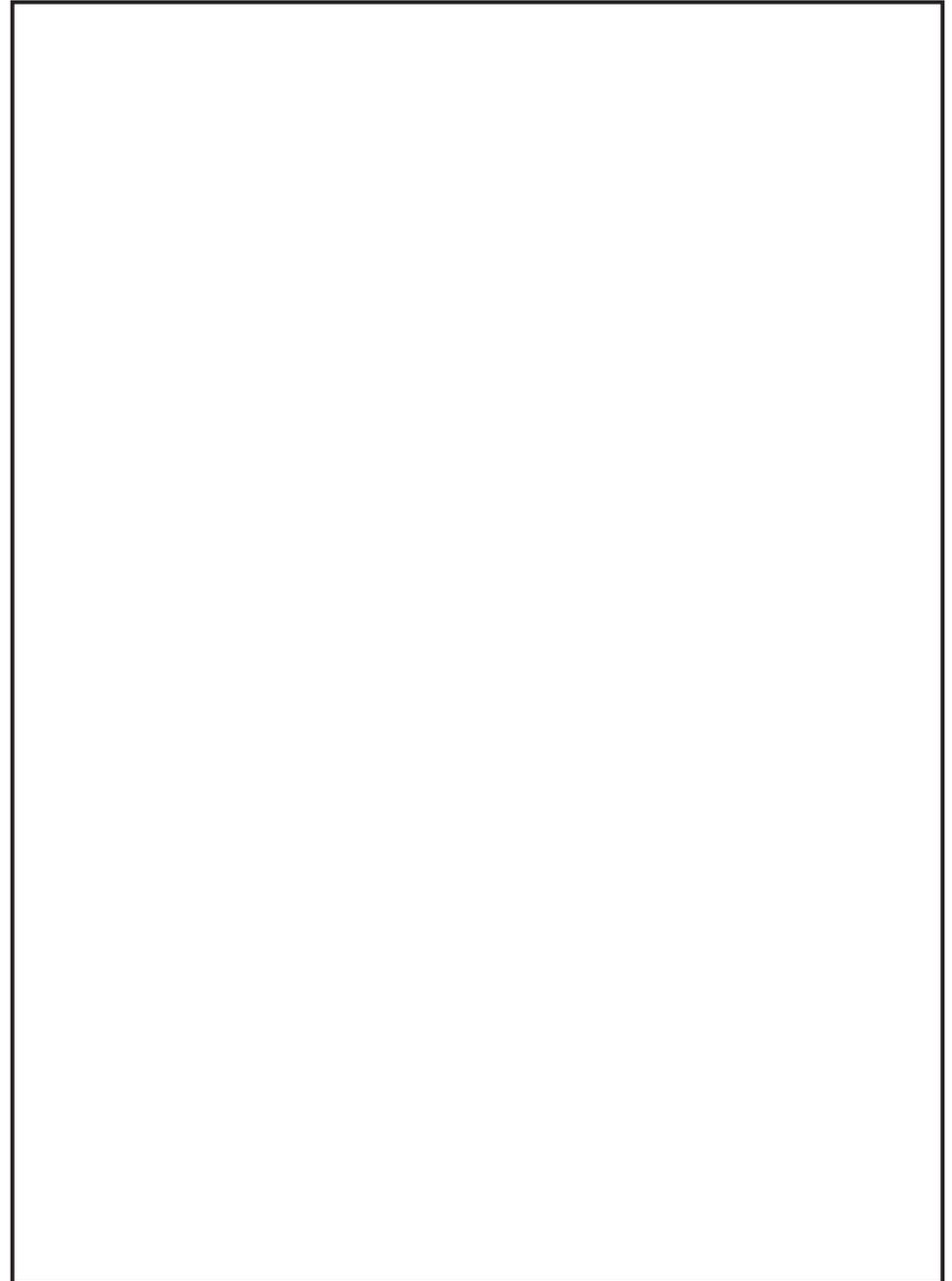


# FLOOR 5 POWERFUL WOMEN

**Simone Leigh**  
Sculptures, 2019

Simone Leigh draws from a variety of sources to explore ideas about the Black female body, race, beauty, and community. Her sculptures suggest the presence of figures—powerful Black women crowned by Afros. Using materials such as ceramic and bronze metal, she examines ways that objects can carry different histories. Look closely at these sculptures. What do they communicate to you?

Think of a powerful woman in your life. It could be someone in your family or a friend. Make a portrait of this woman. Include something important that you've learned from her.



## Don't miss these works in the 2019

**Whitney Biennial.** Here is a list of other artists whose works you may want to visit.

### Floor 1

Diane Simpson

### Floor 3

Curran Hatleberg

### Floor 5

Meriem Bennani\*

John Edmonds

Kota Ezawa

Eric N. Mack

Jeanette Mundt

Jennifer Packer

Walter Price

### Floor 6

Eddie Arroyo

Robert Bittenbender

Nicole Eisenman\*

Tomashi Jackson

Marlon Mullen

\*Outdoor gallery

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Arison and Thomas Wilhelm, Bill Block, the Debra and Jeffrey Geller Family Foundation, Rebecca and Martin Eisenberg, Amanda and Glenn Fuhrman, Barbara and Michael Gamson, Marjorie and James D. Kuhn, Kourosh Larizadeh and Luis Pardo, Melanie Shorin and Greg S. Feldman, Dora and Cranford Stoudemire, and the William and Ellen Taubman Foundation; and Further Forward Foundation, the Kapadia Equity Fund, The Keith Haring Foundation Exhibition Fund, Katie and Amnon Rodan, and Sotheby's.

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