

A graphic consisting of a square with a diagonal line from the top-left corner to the bottom-right corner. The word "WHITNEY" is written vertically in black, bold, sans-serif capital letters along the right edge of the square. The word "KIDS" is written vertically in a multi-colored, bold, sans-serif font along the diagonal line. The letters of "KIDS" are colored: 'K' is blue, 'I' is green, 'D' is yellow, and 'S' is red.

WHITNEY
KIDS

**MAKING
KNOWING:
CRAFT
IN ART,
1950–2019**

Major support for Education Programs is provided by the Steven & Alexandra Cohen Foundation, the William Randolph Hearst Foundation, the Annenberg Foundation, GRoW @ Annenberg, Krystyna Doerfler, The Paul & Karen Levy Family Foundation, Steven Tisch, and Laurie M. Tisch.

Generous support is provided by Lise and Michael Evans, Ronnie and Michael Kassin, Barry and Mimi Sternlicht, Burton P. and Judith B. Resnick, and the Stavros Niarchos Foundation.

Additional support is provided by the Barker Welfare Foundation, public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council, and the Whitney's Education Committee.

Free Guided Student Visits for New York City Public and Charter Schools are endowed by The Allen and Kelli Questrom Foundation.

NYC Cultural Affairs

Support for *Making Knowing: Craft in Art, 1950–2019* is provided by the Lenore G. Tawney Foundation.

Image credits

Jeffrey Gibson (b. 1972), *BIRDS OF A FEATHER*, 2017. Glass beads, artificial sinew, wood, acrylic felt, druzy crystal, copper jingles, metal cones, nylon fringe, and steel, 48 x 36 x 12 in. (121.9 x 91.4 x 30.5 cm). Collection of Beth Rudin DeWoody. © Jeffrey Gibson. Photograph courtesy the artist

Liza Lou (b. 1969), *Kitchen* (detail), 1991–96. Beads, plaster, wood, and found objects, 96 x 132 x 168 in. (243.8 x 335.3 x 426.7 cm). Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; gift of Peter Norton 2008.339a-x. © Liza Lou. Photograph by Tom Powel, courtesy the artist

Ree Morton (1936–1977), *Signs of Love*, 1976. Acrylic, oil, colored pencil, watercolor and pastel on nitrocellulose-impregnated canvas, wood, and canvas with felt, dimensions variable. Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; gift of the Ree Morton Estate 90.2a-n. Photograph Sheldon C. Collins © Estate of Ree Morton. Courtesy Alexander and Bonin, New York

Pepón Osorio (b. 1955), *Angel: The Shoe Shiner*, 1993. Painted wood, rubber, fabric, glass, ceramic, shells, painted cast iron, two video monitors, two color videotapes, hand-tinted photographs, paper, and mirror, dimensions variable. Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; purchase with funds from the Painting and Sculpture Committee 93.100. Photograph Pierre Dupuy © Pepón Osorio

This exhibition of works drawn mostly from the Whitney's collection shows how artists have explored the materials and techniques of craft over the past seventy years. Some artists work with weaving, sewing, or pottery, while others experiment with textiles, thread, clay, beads, or other materials.

We hope you'll be inspired by the art and try your hand at some of the materials and techniques that you see today!

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 for a full list of our Family Programs.

SIGNS AND SYMBOLS

Make a list of what you see in this work. Include a few adjectives to describe the shapes of the objects and the textures of the materials.

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are organized into two vertical columns. Each column contains five sets of three parallel lines, creating ten rows of writing space across the page. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across most of the width of each column.Ree Morton, *Signs of Love*, 1976

In *Signs of Love*, Ree Morton combined painting, sculpture, and aspects of theater design, using the wall and floor as both a canvas and a stage. This installation features objects and words that might be about love. Look closely. What signs and symbols can you find? What do they mean to you?

CHAIR PORTRAIT

Think of someone important to you. Decorate this chair for them. Think about the objects you might include to represent that person.



Pepón Osorio, *Angel: The Shoe Shiner*, 1993

Pepón Osorio created this portrait of a man named Angel, who shines shoes for a living. You can see an almost life-size photograph of Angel on the back of the chair. By turning the chair into a throne, Osorio honors Angel and his work. The video screens show a man spitting onto a shoe to get a glossy shine, and a shoe being polished. Look at the small objects on this sculpture. What clues do they give you about Angel's life?

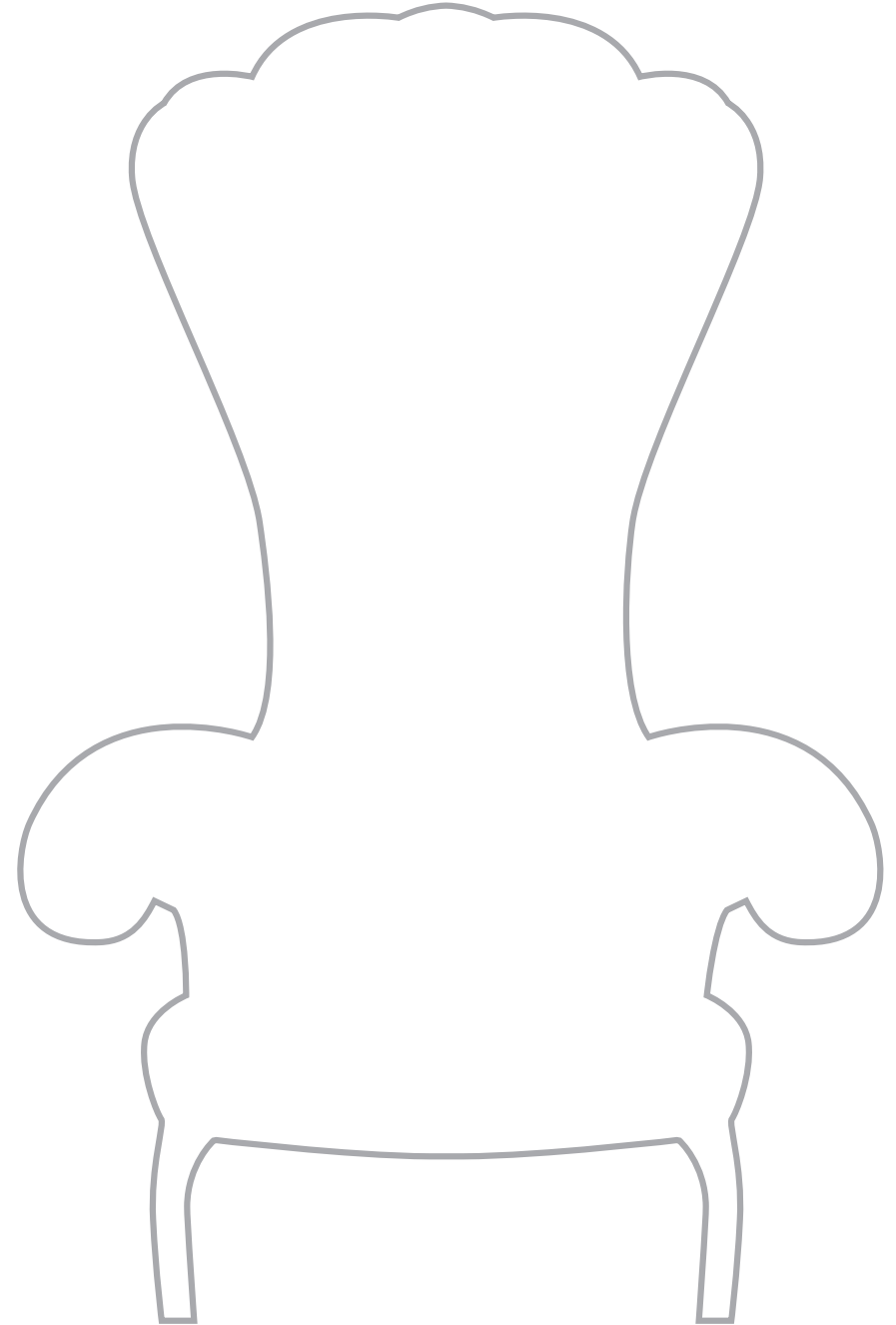


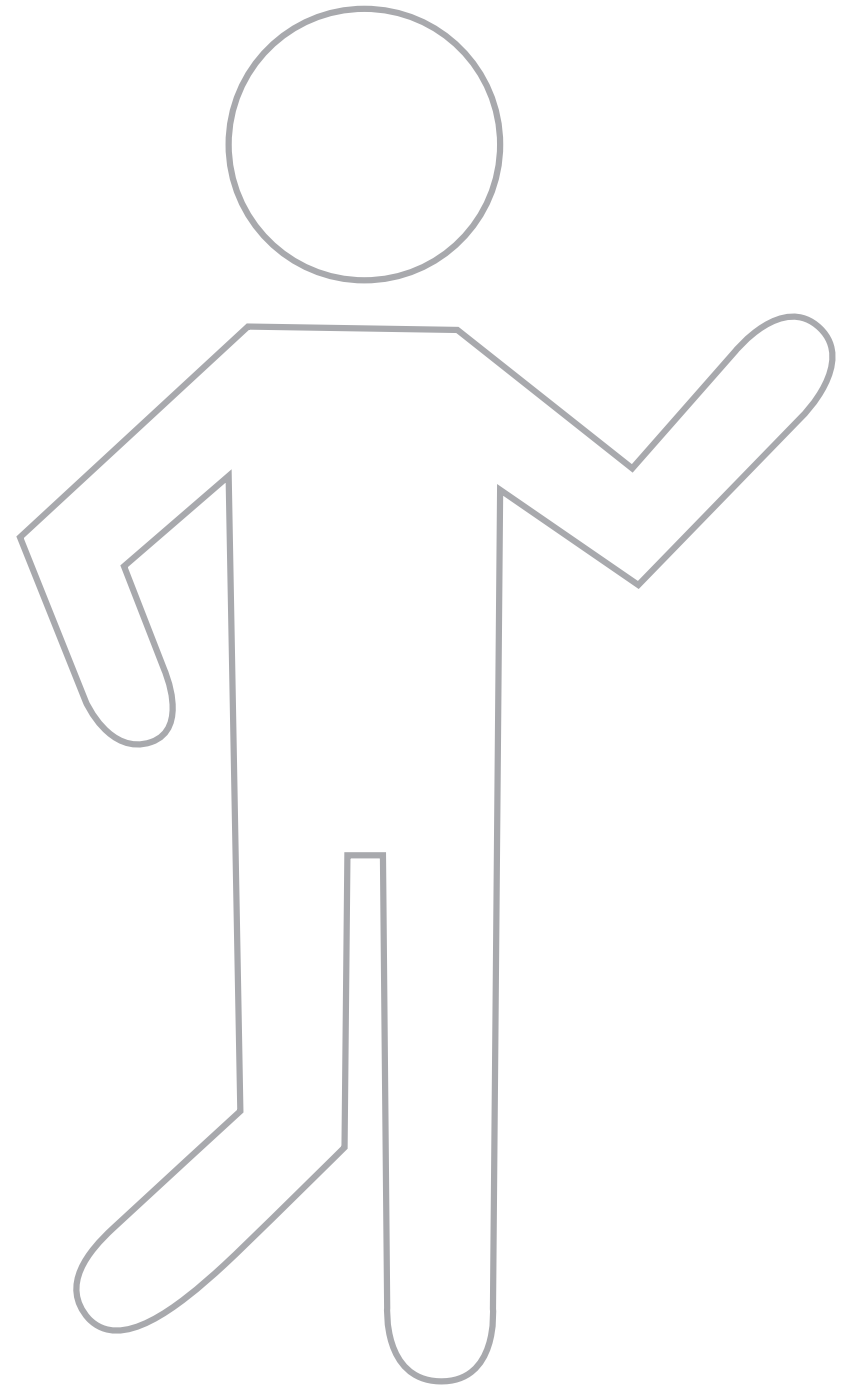
FIGURE IN MOTION



Jeffrey Gibson, *BIRDS OF A FEATHER*, 2017. Courtesy the artist.

Jeffrey Gibson often makes work that represents his background, including his Choctaw and Cherokee heritage. This doll-like figure is made of materials such as glass beads, metal jingles, and nylon fringe. The title of this sculpture—*BIRDS OF A FEATHER*—suggests that people who have similar interests usually stick together. Imagine that this figure could move. What message might they want to communicate? How would they do it? Would they sing or dance? Jump or run?

Design an outfit for this moving figure. Include an interesting expression on the figure's face.



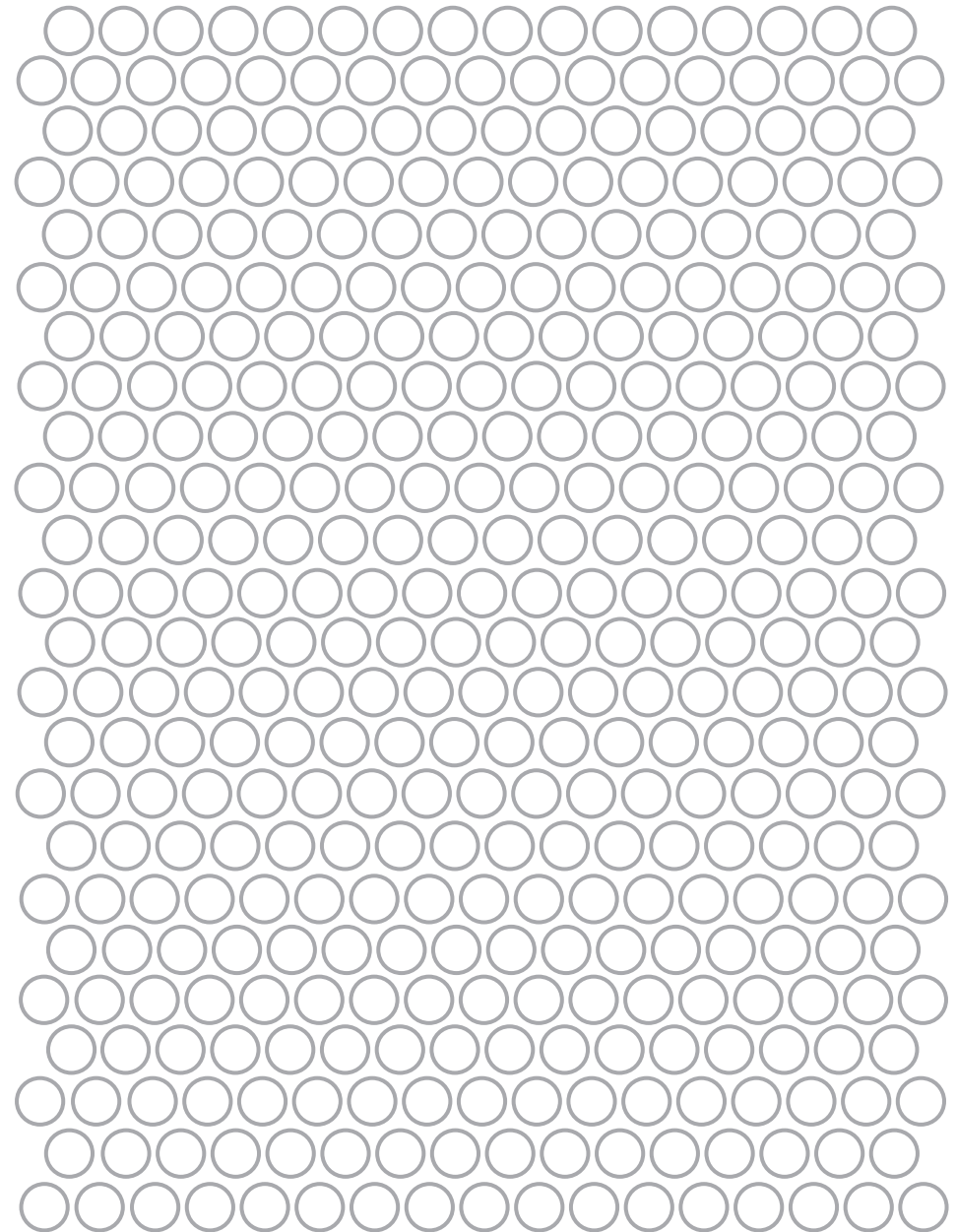
BEAD WORK

Think of an everyday object in your home. Imagine that this object is made of beads, and draw it by shading in “beads” in the grid. Press hard with your pencil for darker shades and softly for lighter shades.



Liza Lou, Kitchen, 1991–96

Liza Lou created this kitchen out of approximately 30 million glass beads! She used a pair of tweezers to put each bead into place. It took her five years to make the whole artwork. Look at the details and explore what’s happening in this kitchen. Who might have left the food on the table or the dishes in the sink? What work still needs to be done here?



EXPLORE MORE!

Look at the artworks in the exhibition and see if you can find these materials:

☐

Wool

☐

Paint

☐

Clay

☐

Fabric

☐

Metal

☐

Beads

Draw one of the artworks or a detail of it.



FUN AT HOME!

Try out some of these projects when you get home:

☐

Use air-dry or polymer clay to make a group of teeny-tiny objects.

☐

Find some cardboard and yarn and create a sculpture.

☐

Transform an old toy into a new artwork.

☐

Collect objects such as leaves, bark, or twigs to make a nature collage.

☐

Make a banner out of a piece of fabric and paint. Write on it with markers.

☐

Create a hanging artwork using yarn, string, and beads.

☐

Use a cardboard box and small objects to make a treasure chest and decorate it inside and out.

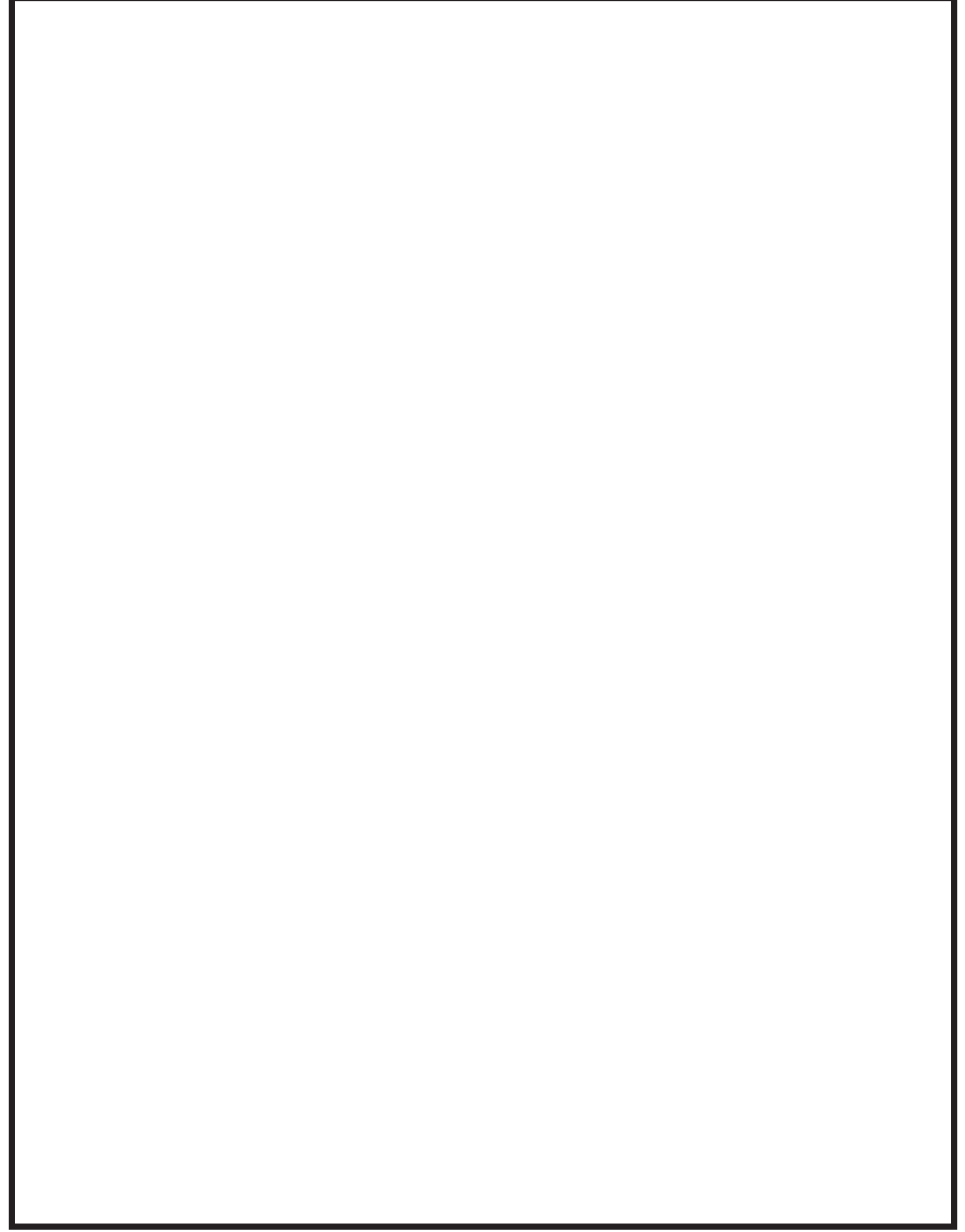
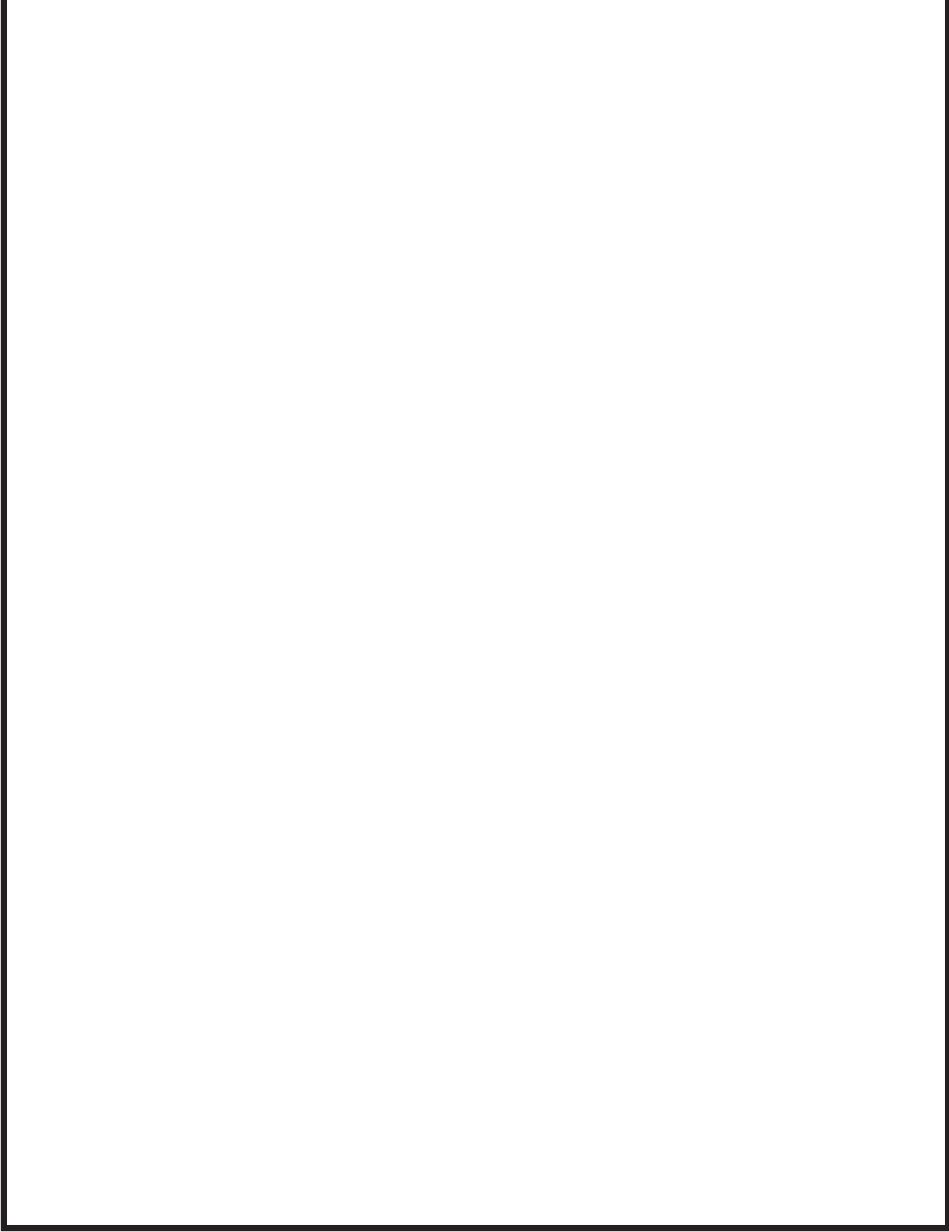
☐

Make a metal sculpture out of aluminum foil.

☐

Look around your kitchen. Create an edible sculpture. Eat it!

**KEEP
DRAWING**



**KEEP
DRAWING**