

**WHITNEY
BIENNIAL
KIDS**

ACTIVITY GUIDE 2022

Note for grownups

There are works in the *Biennial* exhibition that address themes including violence, drug addiction, death, racism and other challenging subjects. For some families, open conversations about these difficult topics can be very rewarding.

Check out whitney.org/families for a full list of our Family Programs.

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Significant support is provided by 2022 Biennial Committee Co-Chairs: Jill Bikoff, Beth Rudin DeWoody, Barbara and Michael Gamson, Miyoung Lee, Bernard Lumpkin, Julie Mehretu, Fred Wilson; 2022 Biennial Committee Members: Philip Aarons and Shelley Fox Aarons, Sarah Arison and Thomas Wilhelm, Candy and Michael Barasch, James Keith (JK) Brown and Eric Diefenbach, Eleanor and Bobby Cayre, Alexandre and Lori Chelma, Suzanne and Bob Cochran, Jenny Brorsen and Richard DeMartini, Fairfax Dorn and Marc Glimcher, Stephen Dull, Martin and Rebecca Eisenberg, Melanie Shorin and Greg S. Feldman, Jeffrey & Leslie Fischer Family Foundation, Cindy and Mark Galant, Christy and Bill Gautreaux, Debra and Jeffrey Geller Family Foundation, Aline and Gregory Gooding, Janet and Paul Hobby, Harry Hu, Peter H. Kahng, Michèle Gerber Klein, Ashley Leeds and Christopher Harland, Dawn and David Lenhardt, Jason Li, Marjorie Mayrock, Stacey and Robert Morse, Daniel Nadler, Opatrny Family Foundation, Orentreich Family Foundation, Nancy and Fred Poses, Marilyn Prince, Eleanor Heyman Propp, George Wells and Manfred Rantner, Martha Records and Richard Rainaldi, Katie and Amnon Rodan, Jonathan M. Rozoff, Linda and Andrew Safran,

Subhadra and Rohit Sahni, Erica and Joseph Samuels, Carol and Lawrence Saper, Allison Wiener and Jeffrey Schackner, Jack Shear, Annette and Paul Smith, the Stanley and Joyce Black Family Foundation, Robert Stilin, Rob and Eric Thomas-Suwall, and Patricia Villareal and Tom Leatherbury; as well as the Alex Katz Foundation, Further Forward Foundation, the Kapadia Equity Fund, Gloria H. Spivak, and an anonymous donor.

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New York magazine is the exclusive media sponsor.

WELCOME

The *Whitney Biennial* is an exhibition of what's happening now in American art. This show features the work of sixty-three artists and artist collectives working with a wide range of media, practices, and ideas. Many of the *Biennial 2022* 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! We hope they will inspire the artist in you too. Have fun!

Share your art with us!

We want to see what you make! Scan this QR code to upload photos or videos of your Kids Activity Guide! We can't wait to see what you've made.



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GRAND STAIRCASE

ART ANYWHERE

Try this!

If you could choose any location to make a work of art, where would it be? A tiny painting hanging in a doll's house? An entire subway car filled with art? A massive sculpture on the moon? In the space below design an artwork that could go anywhere your imagination decides.

Rodney McMillian

shaft, 2021–22

Rodney McMillian created this installation specifically for the Whitney's central stairwell. "I don't think of it as a painting," he's said, "so much as an object that incorporates painting. It also could be called a portal." How does your experience of this artwork change as you move through the space it occupies? In this case, this could mean moving up and down the stairs or looking at its height from one floor!

FLOOR 5

BEAD BY BEAD

Dyani White Hawk

Wopilal | Lineage, 2021

Dyani White Hawk made this work by affixing loomed strips of thin glass pieces called bugle beads onto aluminum panels. Her art draws from the history of Lakota abstraction in beadwork, painting, and quill work, a traditional form of embroidery using porcupine quills. White Hawk has said, “The work is uniquely Lakota, tied to a lineage of artwork that speaks to connections between the land and life, and uniquely me, as related to and part of a greater community of people.” She believes that beauty can be healing and that it fills our souls and our spirits.

Try this!

Inspired by the history of beadwork and Dyani White Hawk’s artwork, create your own beading design that is beautiful to you. Use your graphite pencil, press hard with your pencil for darker shades and softly for lighter shades. When you get home, create a new version of your design using colored pencils, markers, or pens.

Grayscale



Color





FLOOR 5

NEIGHBORHOOD WALK

Jane Dickson

99¢ Dreams, 2020

Jane Dickson has said, “I chose to be a witness to my time, not to document its grand moments but to capture the small, telling ones, the overlooked everyday things that define a time and place...”

The artist based some of these paintings on photographs she took while living in Times Square in the 1980s. The things she saw around her everyday found their way into her artwork—like the words she saw on signs, the bright street lights, and the outsides of shop windows. What details stand out to you?

Try this!

Close your eyes and imagine that you are leaving your house—you are on your way to school, your favorite park, or somewhere you go all the time. What are the visual details that stand out in your mind? Is there a sign that catches your eye? A special tree? Maybe an interesting building or something you spot through a window. In the space above, add details from your neighborhood walk!

FLOOR 5

SILLY SCIENCE

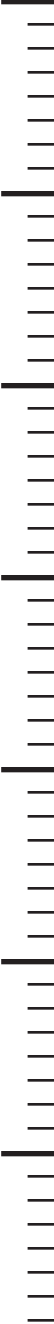
Try this!

If you could choose any small toy to expand to human-size, what would you choose? Where would you keep this toy? How do you imagine people would interact with it? In the space below, draw a scene of people experiencing your GIANT toy!

Eric Wesley

North American Buff Tit, 2022

A Dippy Bird is a small plastic toy bird that bends down as though it is drinking from a glass of water, over and over again, powered by a heat engine. Artist Eric Wesley created a human-sized Dippy Bird with sophisticated materials. A glass tube connects the bird's head and tail, also fabricated in glass and a temperature-sensitive chemical fills the chamber powering the heat engine. In order to continue 'drinking' the bird must be placed in an environment with specific temperature and humidity requirements. To Wesley, the Dippy Bird is both serious science and a silly toy. Sometimes silliness can lead to incredible discoveries!



FLOOR 5

FAN FICTION

My character is:

Alex Da Corte

ROY G BIV, 2022

In this video installation, Alex Da Corte has imagined himself as a series of characters inspired by artists and artworks that are important to him and has dressed in costumes to represent each of these personas. The set of the video recreates a gallery in the Philadelphia Museum of Art—the artist’s hometown museum.

Try this!

Choose a character from your favorite book, movie, or artwork. In the space at the right, draw all the things you will need to transform into this role! Sketch your clothes, accessories, hairstyle, makeup, special effects, props, and any other important details.

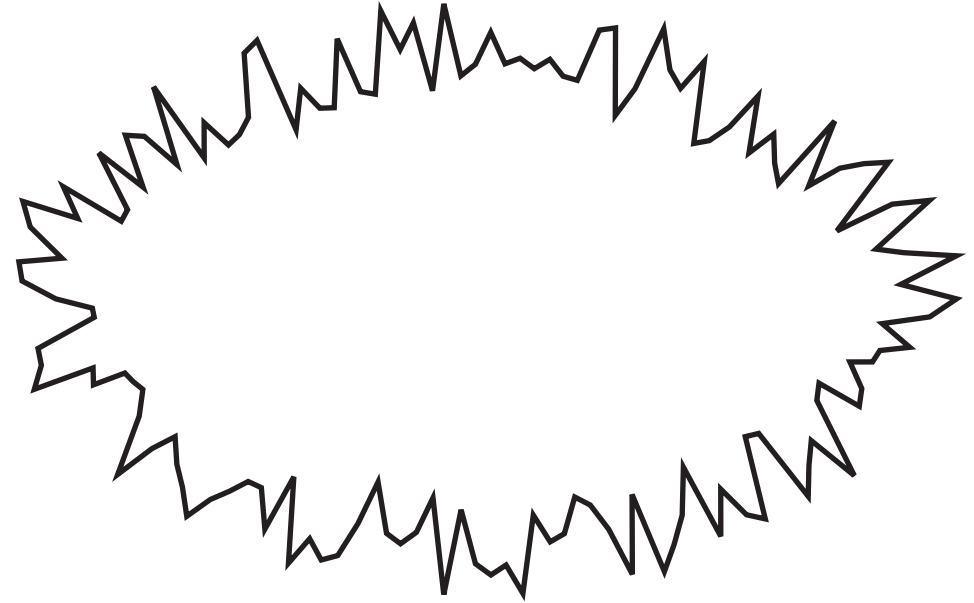
A large, empty rectangular box with a black border, intended for drawing a character and their associated items.

FLOOR 5

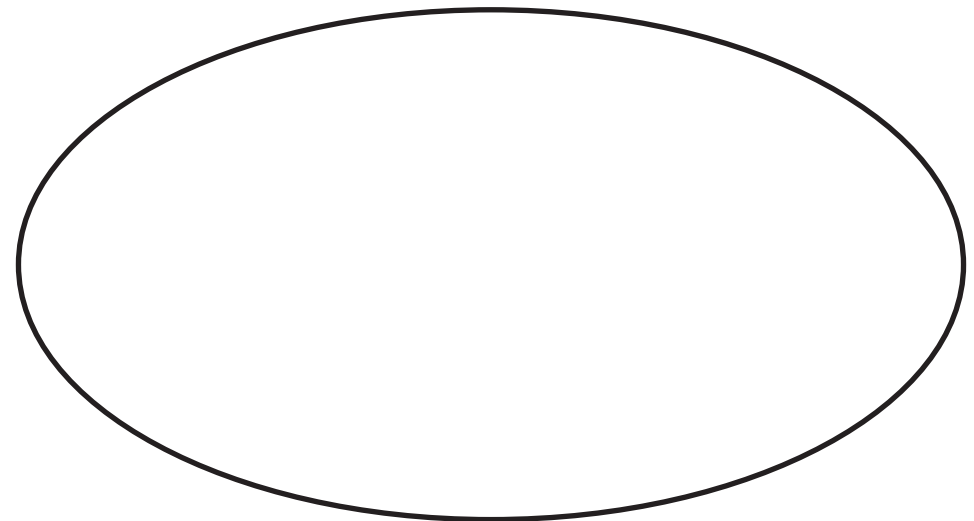
STRESS/RELIEF

Try this!

When you feel worn out, stressed, or scared, what is something that comforts you? In the shape below, make a drawing representing something that stresses you out.



In the shape below, make a drawing of something that makes you feel calm!



Woody De Othello

The will to make things happen, 2021

Woody De Othello created these large-scale ceramic sculptures acknowledging the feelings of exhaustion that have accompanied the pandemic and the ongoing struggle for racial justice. He said, "These sculptures want to put themselves out there emotionally, but also want to protect themselves." What do you notice about these sculptures? How might they indicate that they are protecting themselves?

FLOOR 5

SECRET CENTS

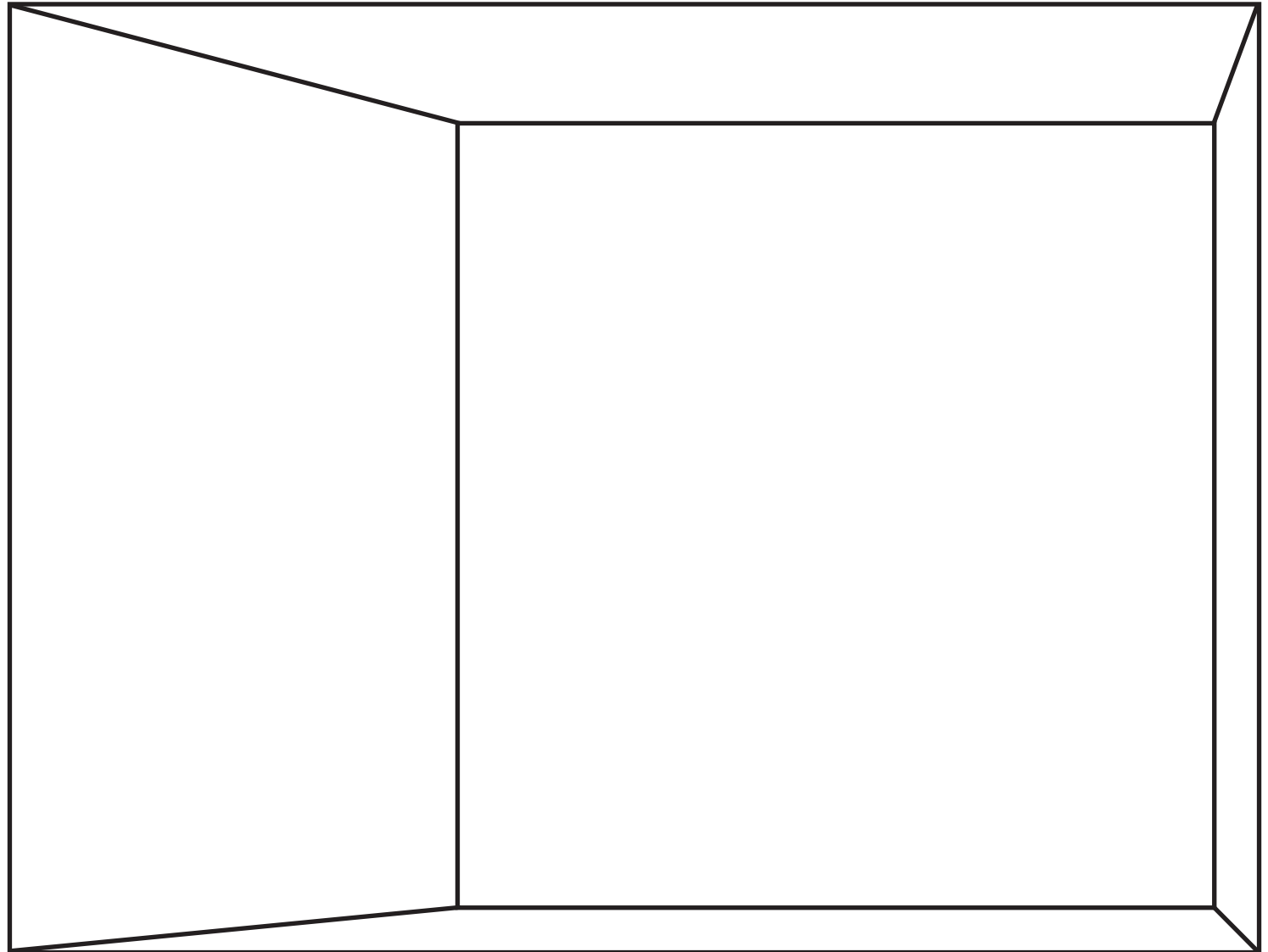
Rose Salane

64,000 Attempts at Circulation, 2022

Rose Salane uses objects she acquires from auctions and online sites to tell stories about her hometown of New York City, its people, and its histories. In this work, she organizes and arranges "slugs," counterfeit coins that were used to pay bus fares from 2017 to 2019. This includes religious tokens, plastic play money, batteries, and washers, as well as pretend coins from arcades and casinos. What stories might these objects tell us about the people who used them?

Try this!

Imagine your community has a lost and found box. What objects might you discover inside? What story would these objects tell about the people who lost them? In the space below draw a few objects to represent where you are from and the people who live there in 2022.



FLOOR 6

SONG FOR SOMEONE

Raven Chacon

Instructions for For Zitkála-Šá series (2017-2020), 2021

The thirteen musical arrangements in Raven Chacon's print series are each dedicated to a different contemporary American Indian or First Nations woman working in music performance, composition, or sound art.

Chacon sees this series of musical scores as portraits of these figures. The series is named after Yankton Dakota composer and musician Zitkála-Šá, who lived from 1876-1938. She was a composer, writer, editor, teacher, and political activist. Several of her works chronicled her early struggles with identity; as an orator, many of her speeches brought awareness to the unfair treatment of Native people. As a composer and musician, Zitkála-Šá taught violin, later writing the lyrics and songs for *The Sun Dance Opera* (1913), the first American Indian opera.

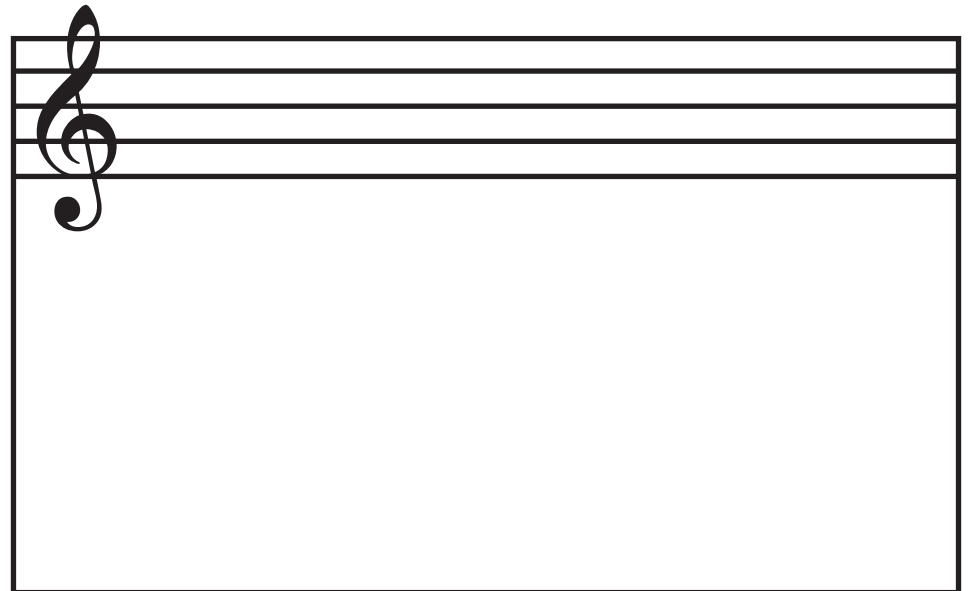
Try this!

Improvise a song for a person or community that is important to you. They could be someone you know personally or a public figure you admire from history or the world today.

Song title:

Performed by:

Sing your song for your family! In the space below, record a visual representation of your music.



FLOOR 6

COMFORT OBJECT

Dave McKenzie

Listed under Accessories, 2022

While reflecting on this work, Dave McKenzie said “I was thinking about writing and performing, and why in the year 2020 I felt the need to make a box that I could stick my head into and cry.” During the pandemic quarantine, he came across an object in his basement, which he’d bought some time ago. Its purpose was to collect sawdust, produced by a table saw, although he’d never used it.

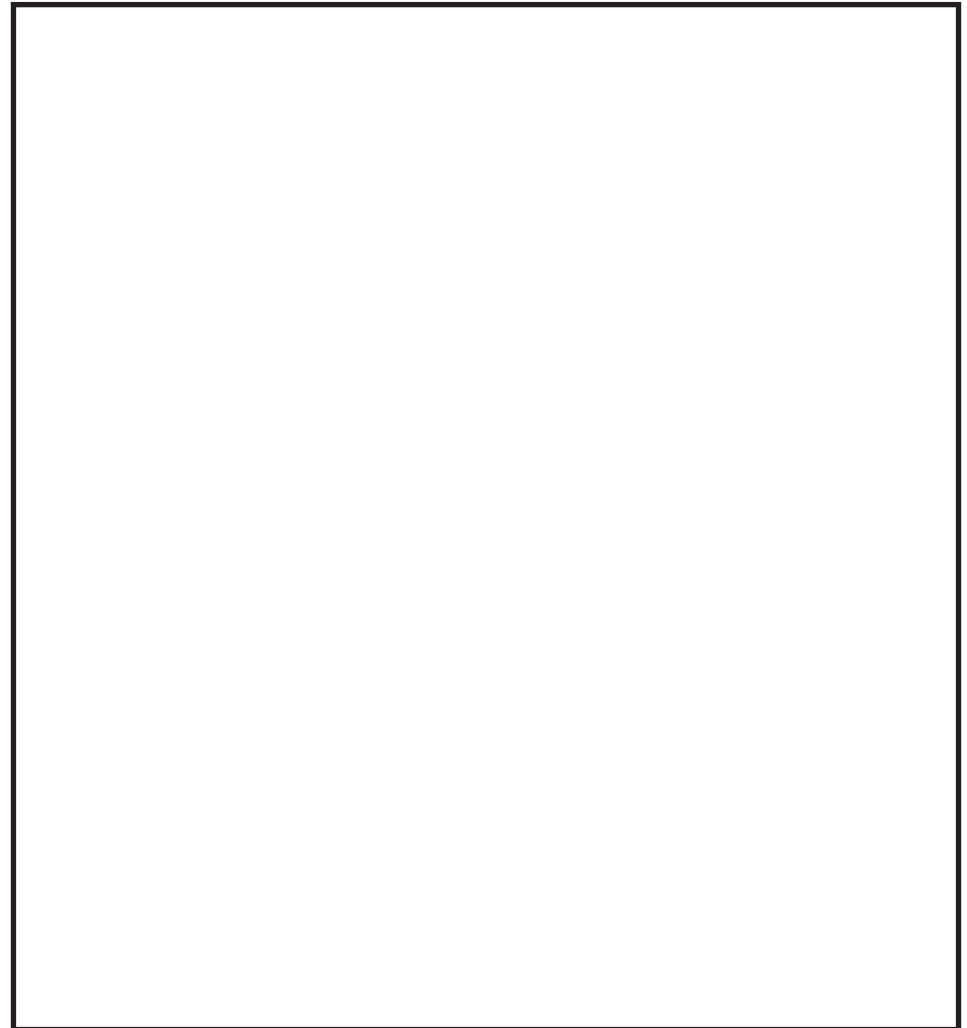
He decided to try and fit himself into it, eventually creating and recording his movements with this object and others, including a pane of glass.

Take a close look at this artwork? How do you think McKenzie was feeling as he created it?

Try this!

Design a comfort object! McKenzie chose a bag: for you, it might be something that lets you fly up above it all, or a giant bed that all your friends and family can climb into and be cozy. Maybe you’ll choose the smoothest little pebble in the entire world that fits perfectly in your palm. Maybe you’re drawn to the fuzziest sweater that feels like a hug.

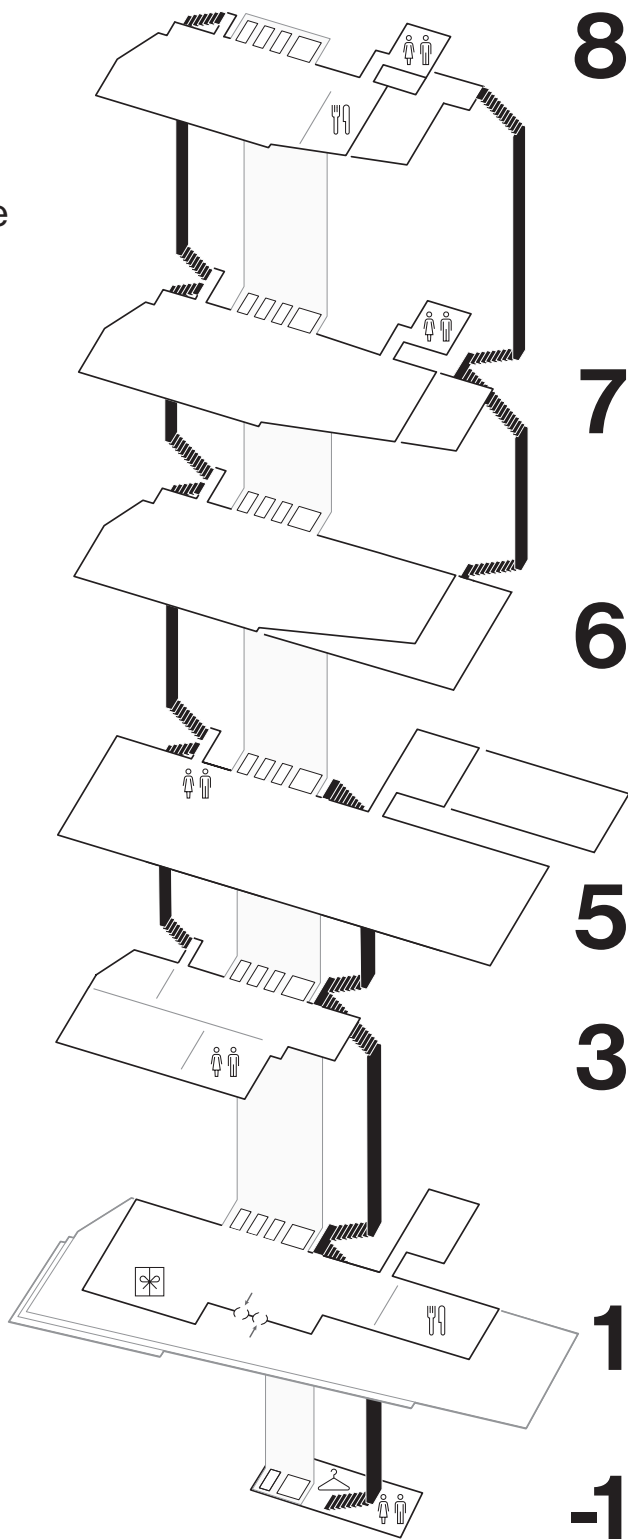
Imagine the perfect object to soothe YOU in difficult times.



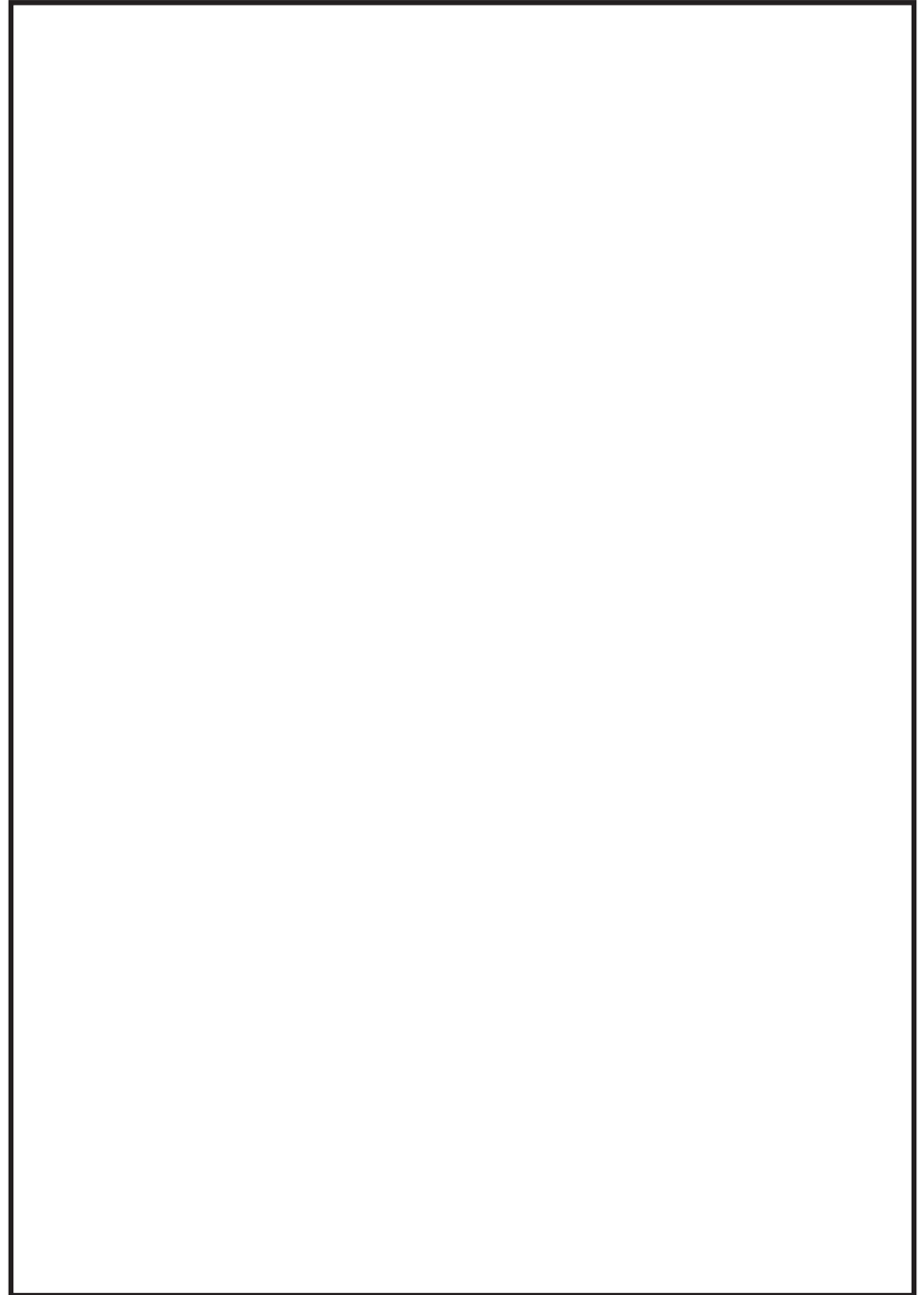
Don't miss these works in the 2022 Whitney Biennial. Here is a list of other artists whose works you may want to visit.

Floor 6
Alia Farid*
Na Mira
WangShui
Cy Gavin

Floor 5
Emily Barker
Rick Lowe
Lisa Alvarado
Jacky Connolly
Leidy Churchman
Danielle Dean



KEEP DRAWING



*Outdoor gallery