

Family Guide · Summer · 2021

## Summer 2021.

C.O.L.A. 2021

May 27 - July 22, 2021

The City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA) and the Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery (LAMAG) are pleased to present *C.O.L.A. 2021*. Featuring sculpture, installation, painting, photographs and video by Los Angelesbased artists Edgar Arceneaux, Maura Brewer, Nao Bustamante, Jedediah Caesar, Neha Choksi, Lia Halloran, Farrah Karapetian, Phung Huynh, Ruben Ochoa and Umar Rashid, this work is the outcome of the City of Los Angeles (C.O.L.A.) Individual Artist Fellowship for visual arts awarded by the Department of Cultural Affairs. Founded in 1997, C.O.L.A. honors the relationship between Los Angeles, its artists and the city's identity as an international arts capital.

#### What is art?



"Art" is a term that we use all the time, but is hard to define. What do you think of when you hear the word "art"?

Cultural and political values often determine what gets to be called "art", making it hard for people to agree on what fits under this term.

Ask another person "what is art?" Do you agree with their definition? Why or why not?

# Choose, Write, & Draw.

#### Choose an artwork that interests you

- Title:
- Artist name:
- Year(s) made:

Write 2-5 sentences on what you like about the artwork, or draw it below.



See if you can answer the following about each artwork:

What colors do you see?
What textures do you see?
How does the artwork make you feel?

What does the artist want you to think about?

Write down a question you would like to ask the artist.



Here at LAMAG we strive for a just society, and we are committed to providing space to explore difficult questions and provoke critical thinking. Our exhibitions aim to inspire conversation about contemporary issues and ideas that are relevant to the people of Los Angeles.

The terms on the opposite side of this page are intended to start a conversation as you view the artworks in our exhibitions. Art is a powerful tool that can effect change and often reflects the artist's beliefs.

### Some things you may want to consider while viewing an artwork are:

- Is this artwork political? Why or why not?
- Does the artwork address injustice? If yes, what are those injustices and who do they affect?
- What is a cause that is important to you?

## Glossary.

**Abstract Art**: Art that does not try to show a realistic or accurate representation of the visual world. Instead it uses shapes, colors and gestural marks to create its effect.

**Contemporary Art:** Considered the art of today, in which the artists work in a globally influenced, culturally diverse, and technologically advancing world, this art is identified by the very lack of a uniform organizing principle, ideology or "ism". It is part of a cultural dialogue that addresses personal and cultural identity, family, community and nationality.

**Afrofuturism**: A cultural aesthetic and ideology that transcends disciplines, combining art, music, activism, science fiction and academia. Central to the ideology is a vision for a society free of oppression, specifically new futures for African-descended peoples.

**Cultural Assimilation**: The process of changing one's own cultural traditions or language in order to resemble those of another group.

**Feminism**: The advocacy of women's rights based on political, economic and social equality of the sexes. Feminist art challenges the dominance of men in both art and society and has evolved to address intersecting concerns about race, class, and gender,

**Sociological Perspective**: A point of view which reflects that our attitudes, behavior and life changes are influenced by our social backgrounds. It enables us to see society as a temporary social product created by human beings and capable of being changed by them as well.

**Stereotype**: A generalized and often untrue belief about a particular category of people. Stereotypes are offensive, can be harmful and used to judge people unfairly. Implicit stereotypes, or implicit bias is when we are unaware that we make assumptions about others.

**Allyship**: Utilizing privilege to fight oppression. Empowering and being in support of marginalized voices and communities.

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#### Accessibility

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As a covered entity under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Los Angeles does not discriminate on the basis of disability and, upon request, will provide reasonable accommodation to ensure equal access to its programs, services and activities.

Credits: cover, **Phung Huynh**, *First Christmas Snowglobe* (front view), 2021, courtesy of the artist; page 2, **Neha Choski**, *Strata bouquet* (uncertain allies), 2021, courtesy of the artist, photo by: Ruben Diaz; page 4, **Edgar Arceneaux**, *Untitled* (detail), 2021, courtesy of the artist; page 5, **Farrah Karapetian**, *The Women*, 2020, courtesy of the artist and Diane Rosenstein Gallery.

LAMAG is a facility of the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs.

