

At-Home Art Activity

My Story, Inspired by Whitfield Lovell

Whitfield Lovell was born in 1959 in the Bronx, New York. Lovell's drawings, installations, and assemblages explore African American experiences around identity, memory, and history.

Lovell's works are inspired by images of African Americans taken between the Emancipation Proclamation (Jan 1, 1863) and the Civil Rights Movement (1954 - 1968). His assemblages are constructed using his drawings along with found objects that he arranges to create the work.

Create your story with a drawing and add objects (real, drawn, or collaged) that represent what is important to you, where you live, or a memorable event in your life.

Follow the steps below to draw and assemble your own work of art!

Materials:

- Pencil
- Paper
- Glue
- Magazine cut-outs
- *Optional: Colored Pencil*

Instructions:

1. Using a pencil, or colored pencils, draw a portrait of yourself, a member of your community, or an imaginary person in the center of your paper. Consider the story you would like to tell and how your subject could communicate the story through facial expression. Are they wearing any accessories such as a hat or earrings?
2. After you draw your subject, consider some items that could help tell the story of your person. Cut out images from magazines, or find small, lightweight items around your house that best tell the story of your person. Glue these items onto your paper. **Examples:** a necklace, some small buttons, images of objects your subject could use like a phone, etc.
3. Display your assemblage work and share your own story with the community!



America, 2000, Whitfield Lovell (American, born Bronx, NY), charcoal on wood, flags 89 x 53 1/2 x 7 7/8 in. Courtesy of the artist and DC Moore Gallery, New York



Collection Connections:



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Because I Wanna Fly, 2021, Whitfield Lovell (American, born Bronx, NY), conté crayon on wood with attached found objects, 114 in. diameter. Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Adolph D. and Wilkins C. Williams Fund, by exchange



Kin II (Oh Damballa), 2008, Whitfield Lovell (American, born Bronx, NY), conté on paper, paper flags, 30 x 22 1/2 in. Mott-Warsh Collection

Explore at VMFA!

Come to VMFA to see the ***Whitfield Lovell: Passages*** special exhibition. On view from Jun 17 – Sep 10, 2023. **Two artists. Two exhibitions. One Ticket.** Your ticket includes access to both *Whitfield Lovell: Passages* and *Benjamin Wigfall and Communications Village*.

