



# From Experience to Art: Thinking Like an Artist to Think Things Through

When world events suddenly shift our perspective and present overwhelming concerns, thinking like an artist can offer a way to creatively reflect on and process our days. Use the art, videos, and ideas in this lesson concept to help students explore ways to visually articulate their experiences by considering the colors, objects, and materials they encounter throughout their days.

<b>Grade Level:</b>	Grades 6-8, Grades 9-12
<b>Collection:</b>	American Art, Modern and Contemporary Art
<b>Culture/Region:</b>	America
<b>Subject Area:</b>	African American, Communication, Creative Thinking, Fine Arts, Visual Arts
<b>Activity Type:</b>	Lesson Concept

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## WHEN THE WORLD SHIFTS OUR PERSPECTIVE

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### "LOGGING THE COLORS"

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#### Kristen Baker

Artist Kristen Baker is known for her explosive and colorful paintings. In fact, color is an element that Baker uses to draw her daily experiences into her work.

*"Most of the paintings are sort of a mix between color I see out in the world – you know, on a piece of clothing, or a billboard, and then I might be thinking of a Matisse painting...To me, it makes sense to bring them all together because that's how I'm experiencing the world...I'm constantly logging these colors and bringing*

*them together in a different way."*

This work, titled *The Prig*, which references Cubist collage was made with trowels, palette knives, and squeegees on sheets of polyvinyl chloride (PVC). Baker builds her bright glossy surfaces by outlining each mark and shape with torn tape and filling in the interior. The forms are layered and sometimes scraped away to reveal the colors underneath. Her fractured images have a textural, hand-made quality that emphasizes the materiality of paint and also a synthetic, virtual quality like 3-D digital imaging.

Click on the image to take a closer look at Baker's use of color.



Kristen Baker, American, born 1975, *The Prig*, 2019, Acrylic on polyvinyl chloride, Gift of Pamela K. and William A. Royall, Jr. in celebration of VMFA's 75th anniversary, 2001.501a-b

Watch Kristen Baker talk about her use of color