

At-Home Art Activity

Create your own Room Collage!

Create your room collage inspired by your personal identity, community, and dreams or goals. Draw inspiration from African American artists Mickalene Thomas, Romare Bearden, and Jacob Lawrence's exploration of space, setting, and community within their own works.

Explore a variety of materials such as scratch paper, ribbon, felt, and more to convey personal and/or community identities. Experiment with pattern and texture by designing, cutting, and creating your own collaged space.

Materials:

- Felt
- Ribbon
- Textured paper
- Scissors
- Cardstock
- Black scratch paper
- Rhinestones
- Glue
- Optional: Tissue paper, glitter, recycled fabric



Creating your dream space

1. Start with a sheet of cardstock, this will be the base for your piece.
2. Consider the background colors of your dream space (ex. color of walls/floor) and select what felt you will use. Cut out a variety of geometric or organic shapes from your felt and glue them down to your cardstock base. Be sure to leave some blank space for other materials.



3. Next, select a few different pieces of wavy, or textured paper, and cut them to your desired shapes. Glue your paper down on top of the felt.

- Next cut the piece of black scratch paper to your desired shape. Glue the scratch paper to a blank area of your work, or, overlap it with the felt and textured paper pieces (and then glue). Use a pencil to scratch away or draw different objects or patterns on the black scratch paper.



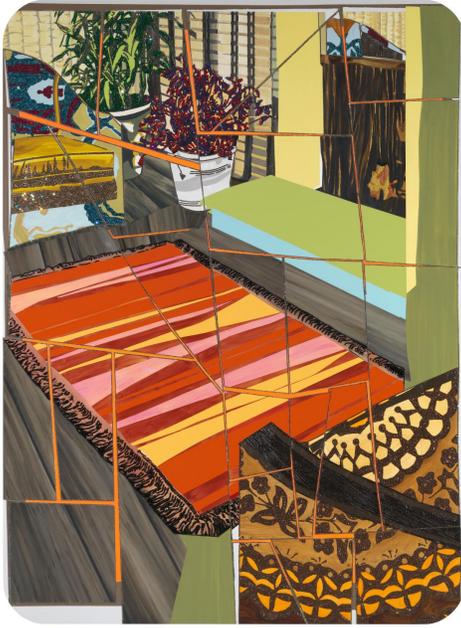
- Use the ribbon to separate different areas within your space (a small part of the room, or an outlined corner). Glue your ribbon to your work.



- Next use the rhinestones to highlight your favorite parts of your space. This could be an area of the room, like the ceiling or a window, or an object in the room, like a rug or guitar.
- Finally, display your dream space!



Explore More at VMFA!



Interior: Two Chairs and Fireplace

2011

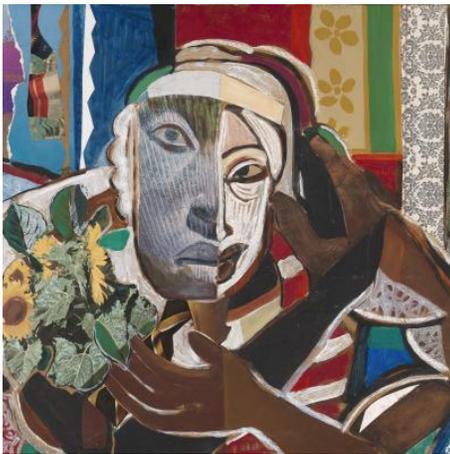
Mickalene Thomas, American, born 1971 (Artist)

Acrylic and oil enamel with rhinestones on panel

21st Century Gallery

2014.371

Thomas explores traditional notions of femininity and beauty, as well as female empowerment, through paintings portraying provocative, glamorous African American women. She begins her three-part process by building sets redolent of 1970s domestic interiors, where she then poses and photographs her model. Finally, she paints the image on a much larger scale, incorporating materials such as glitter and sequins. Thomas's dialogue with art history is evident in this painting, which, unusually for her, presents a setting without the figure. The rich profusion of patterns plays on Henri Matisse's paintings, while the illusion of torn and pasted fragments recalls Romare Bearden's collages.



Homage to Romare (Primary Title)

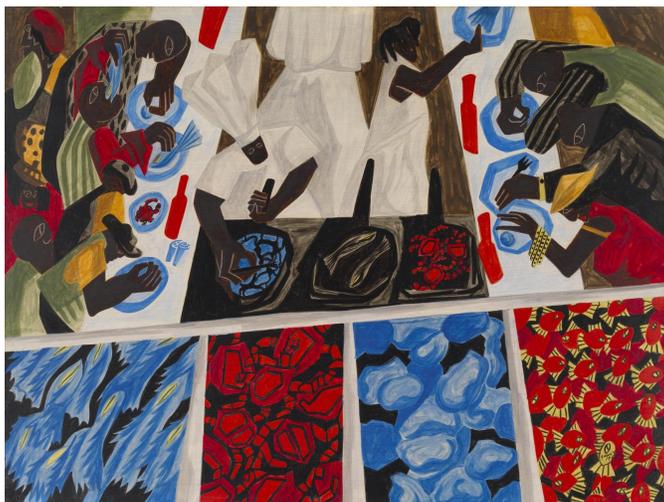
1976

David Driskell, American, 1931-2020 (Artist)

Collage and Gouache on Masonite

Modern and Contemporary Art

2017.3 (*not on view*)



Catfish Row (Primary Title)

1947

Jacob Lawrence, American, 1917 - 2000 (Artist)

Egg tempera on hardboard

American Galleries

2013.228

In 1947 the celebrated modernist Jacob Lawrence received a commission from Fortune magazine to depict African American life in the so-called Black Belt, a broad agricultural region of the Deep South. The artist spent a few weeks that summer traveling to Memphis, Vicksburg, and New Orleans, as well as various communities in Alabama. *Catfish Row* is one of ten temperas resulting from Lawrence's journey, all painted on his return to New York. This dynamic painting, with its overall mood of

abundance and pleasure, depicts the shared preparation and consumption of food in black communities that offered some respite from the hardships of racial discrimination in the postwar years.

VIRGINIA MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

200 N. Arthur Ashe Blvd. | Richmond, VA 23220 | T 804.340.1400 | www.VMFA.museum