



Romare Bearden

Record Date, 1979, monotype, 29.5 x 41.5. Photograph by Gregory Staley. © 2020 Romare Bearden Foundation / Licensed by VAGA at Artists Rights Society (ARS), NY.



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Artist Romare Bearden was friends with many famous jazz musicians (Duke Ellington was one of Bearden's first patrons). He even wrote songs for Billie Holiday and Dizzy Gillespie, and designed album covers for Wynton Marsalis. Not only do jazz musicians show up as the subjects of Bearden's art, they also inspired his experimental style. His artworks such as *Record Date* share elements of jazz music such as spontaneity, rhythm and mood.

Look Closely

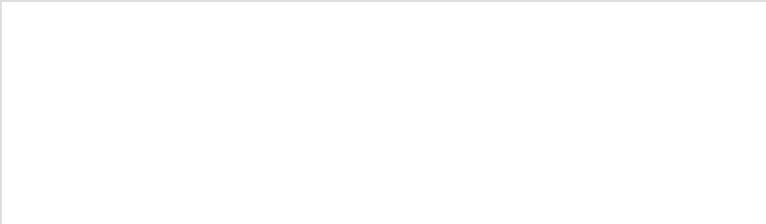
How many musicians do you see in this image?
What kinds of instruments are they playing?

Create your own title!

With your group, come up with a creative name for each color you see in this artwork.



Now describe the kinds of lines and shapes you see.



Combine your favorite words to form a new title: _____
(color word) + _____ (lines/shapes word) =
_____ (your creative title!)

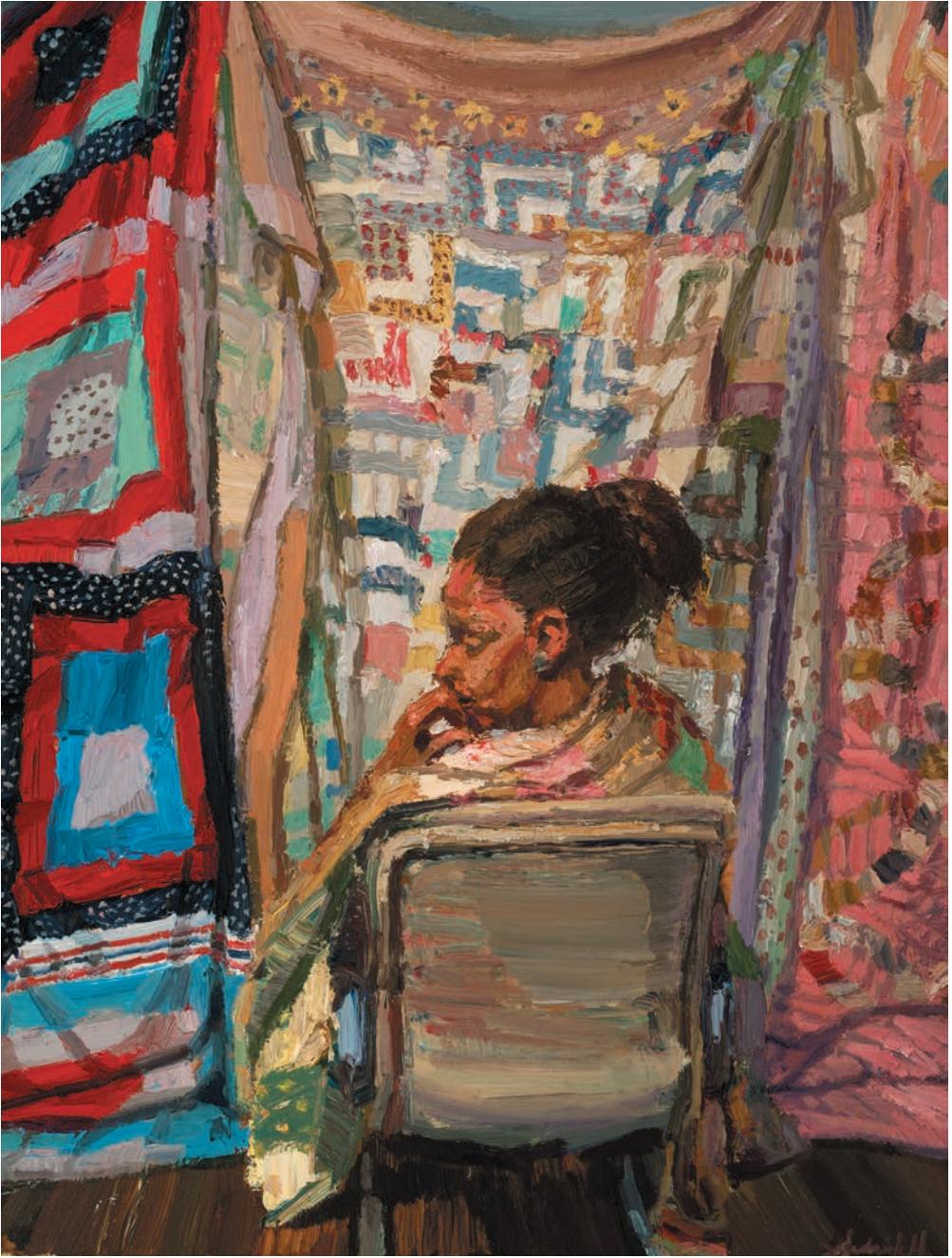
What does your new title tell others about the mood and feeling of this monotype print?

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Memories & Inspiration: The Kerry and C. Betty Davis Collection of African American Art was organized and toured by International Arts & Artists, Washington, DC.



INTERNATIONAL
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Sedrick Huckaby

She Wore Her Family's Quilt, 2015, oil on canvas.

Photograph by Gregory Staley.



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Many of Sedrick Huckaby's paintings are about African American culture, family and heritage. Some of his paintings feature portraits of family members, including a series focused on his grandmother who was a quilter. Though the art of quilting crosses cultures, genders and eras, quilt making has been an important cultural tradition passed down through generations of women in African American communities. Like many of Sedrick Huckaby's paintings, *She Wore Her Family's Quilt* hints at the artist's family and creative legacy.

Look & Create

Quilts are made from scraps of many different pieces of cloth put together to form a pattern.

Sketch a pattern you see in one of the quilts in the painting. Then create your own quilt pattern with designs inspired by your family or heritage.



Discuss

What do you own or wear that reminds you of your family or cultural heritage? Why is it special to you? Take turns answering this question in your group.

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Michael Ellison

Mickey Dees, 1987. Woodcut. Photograph by Reis Birkwhistell.



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Artist Michael Ellison created scenes of daily life in Atlanta's Black community during the 1980s and 1990s. These brightly colored prints can help others imagine what it would be like to live in the artist's hometown at that time.

Imagine you are in this scene. Write in the boxes below to describe your experience.

I hear

I see

I feel

I taste

I smell

Find salt and pepper shakers, a ceiling fan, a yellow arch, bricks, someone wearing high heels, and a cup with a straw.

Reflect: This painting shows people from Atlanta gathered within their community. Where do you like to gather with friends and family? Draw a picture of you and your loved ones in that place.

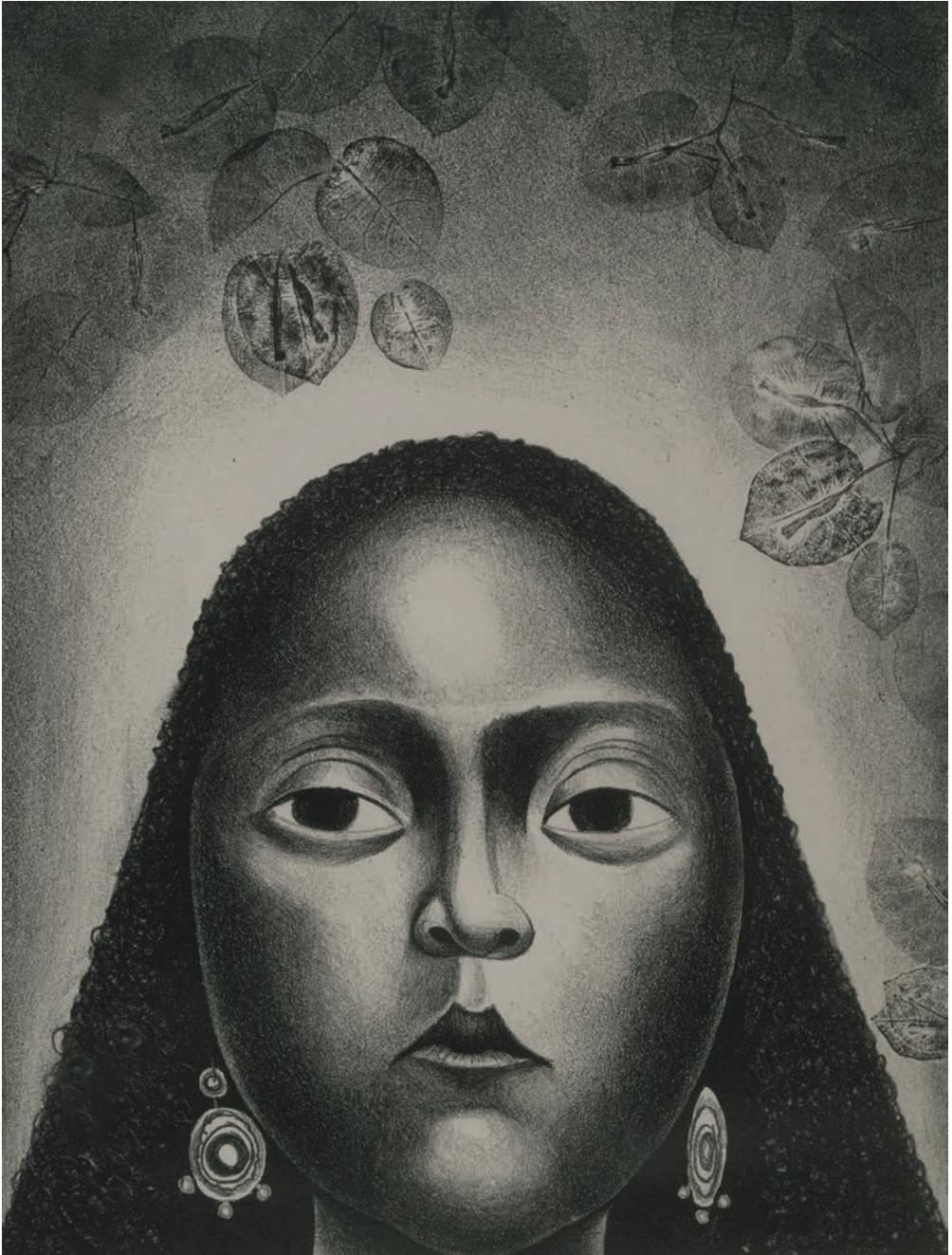


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Elizabeth Catlett

Prissy, 1979, lithograph, 18 x 15. Photograph
by Gregory Staley. © Catlett Mora Family
Trust/Licensed by VAGA, New York, NY.



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Over Elizabeth Catlett's long career, she mentored and taught many other artists, including Samella Lewis, an artist in this exhibition. Catlett once told Lewis, "I have always wanted my art to service my people – to reflect us, to relate to us, to stimulate us, to make us aware of our potential."

Think: Who do you know that uses their talents and time to help their community?

Draw a portrait of that person in the frame below. Include details such as jewelry, other accessories or clothing. Then, decorate the frame with things that remind you of that person such as a favorite plant, color, sports team logo, etc.



Find a sculpture by Elizabeth Catlett in this exhibition. What similarities and differences do you see between the sculpture and the print Catlett made?

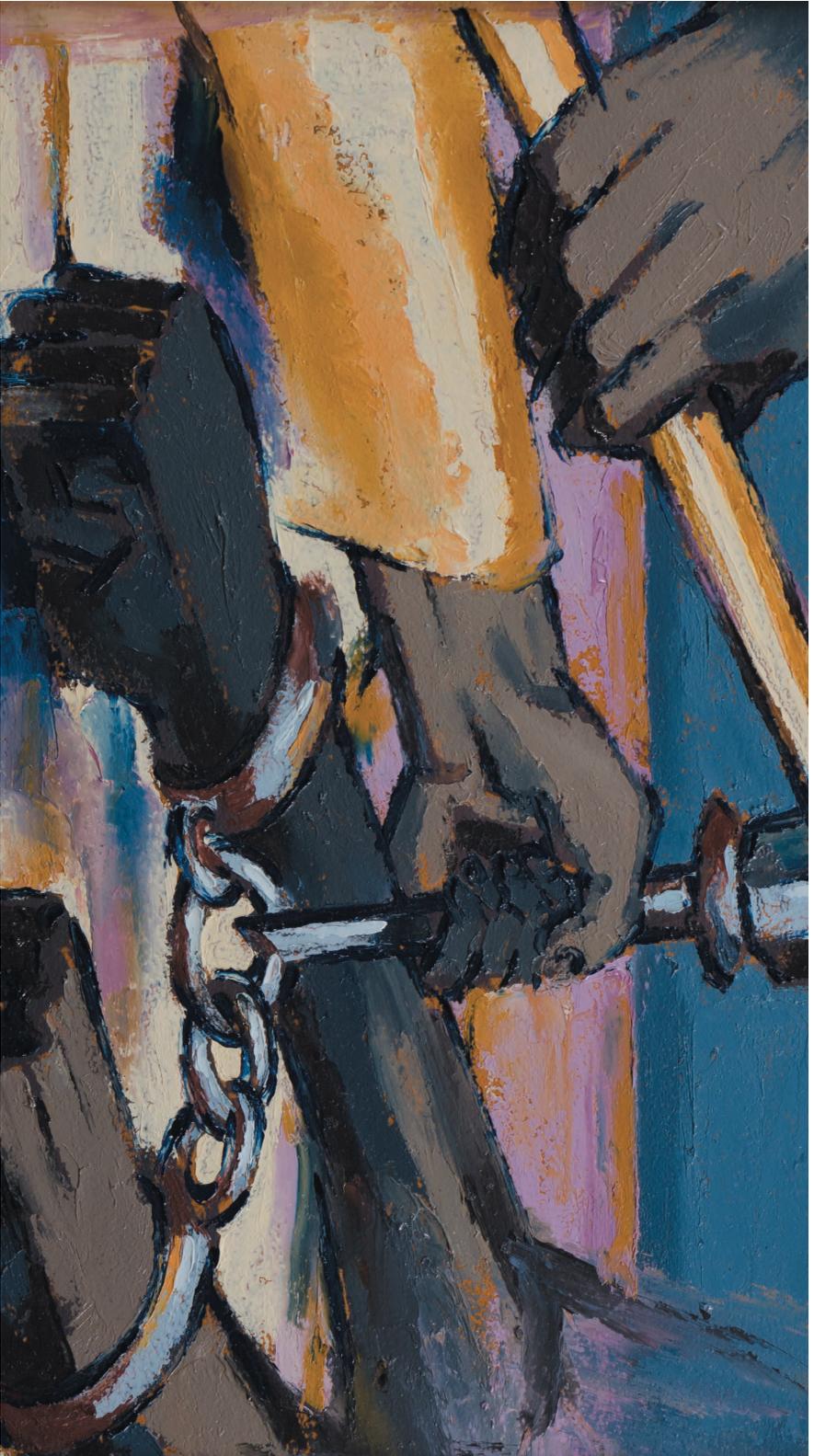


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Claude Clark

Self Determination, 1969, oil on board. Photograph by Reis Birdwhistell.



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When he was a little boy, Claude Clark’s mother told her son “I want you to be independent.” For Clark, being independent meant that he had to persist and take opportunities that came his way. Despite dealing with childhood poverty, racism and discrimination, Clark had a long and successful career as an artist and an educator who drew attention to African American history, culture and civil rights issues.

Look & Discuss

What is happening in this painting?

Imagine what you hope will happen next. Draw or write about it below.



Reflect

The title of this painting, *Self Determination*, refers to people taking control of their own lives. Tell your group about something that you feel holds you back at times. Then talk about ways you could overcome that challenge together.

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Sam Gilliam

Untitled, 1974, oil acrylic on rice paper. Photograph by Gregory Staley. Courtesy of David Kordansky Gallery, Los Angeles, CA.



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Artist Sam Gilliam is one of the greatest innovators in the history of American painting. He has experimented with his medium by draping, folding and crumpling his canvases, pouring rather than brushing paint on a surface, applying thinned paint to create a stained effect and much more. Most of his work doesn't directly represent the world around him. Instead, it creates an experience for the viewer using colors, shapes and movement.

Experience

Sit or stand in front of the painting for a few quiet moments and take in its colors and movement. What feeling does the painting give you?

Find

Where does it look like:

- The artist crumpled or folded the paper?
- The paint moved around the surface?
- Color soaked in?
- Paint has built up?

Get Inspired

"As an artist, I discover new things everyday...." said Sam Gilliam. The artist's spirit of discovery and experimentation can inspire us to wonder, create and see the world in new ways. Try to complete a familiar task in a new way at home. It can be as simple as writing or drawing backwards, setting the table using a different combination of objects and colors or starting your day off in a new way.

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Jacob Lawrence

Builder Series #8, 1981, graphite. Photograph by Gregory Staley. © 2017 The Jacob and Gwendolyn Knight Lawrence Foundation, Seattle / Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York.



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Larry Walker

Postman, 2013, assemblage. Photograph by
Reis Birdwhistell. © 2018 Larry Walker.



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Acclaimed artist and educator Larry Walker mixes painting, drawing, collage and various materials in the process of creating. Walker and collector Kerry Davis, both Atlanta residents, became friends and this assemblage (a work of art made of many different objects) is a tribute to Kerry Davis' long career as an American postal worker.

Look

Walk around the assemblage slowly, taking in the details. What do the different objects tell you about:

- Kerry Davis?
- Postal workers?
- The time period when Kerry Davis worked as a postman?

Discuss

Kerry and C. Betty Davis worked hard to collect African American art and share it with other people. With your group members, talk about what each of you collect and what those collections say about you.

Create

Make an assemblage in honor of a friend, family member or teacher. Think about images and objects that remind you of this person. Then, draw pictures, collect scrap materials and creatively combine the images and objects by gluing them onto a recyclable structure such as a cardboard box or an empty soda bottle. Present your assemblage as a gift to your loved one.

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