



JIBADE-KHALIL HUFFMAN

**POEMS
FOR
EVERY
OCCASION**

August 18, -
December 2, 2018

**EDUCATOR
GUIDE**

KMAC MUSEUM

WELCOME!

Dear Educators,

KMAC is excited to bring the artwork of **Jibade-Khalil Huffman** to your students. This field trip guide is intended to help you prepare for your visit to KMAC and begin conversations of key themes and ideas in your classroom. Through discussion, reflection, and art creation, our goal is to have the artistic process come alive for your students. While touring the exhibition we will look at select artworks to engage students in thinking and discussing the use of mixed media, collage, projection, and sound. You will see a contemporary artist using a variety of materials and processes to materialize big ideas. To further cement the connection between responding, creating, and producing, we have also developed an art-making experience that corresponds with the exhibition.

Enjoy your visit!
KMAC Director of Education
Joanna Miller

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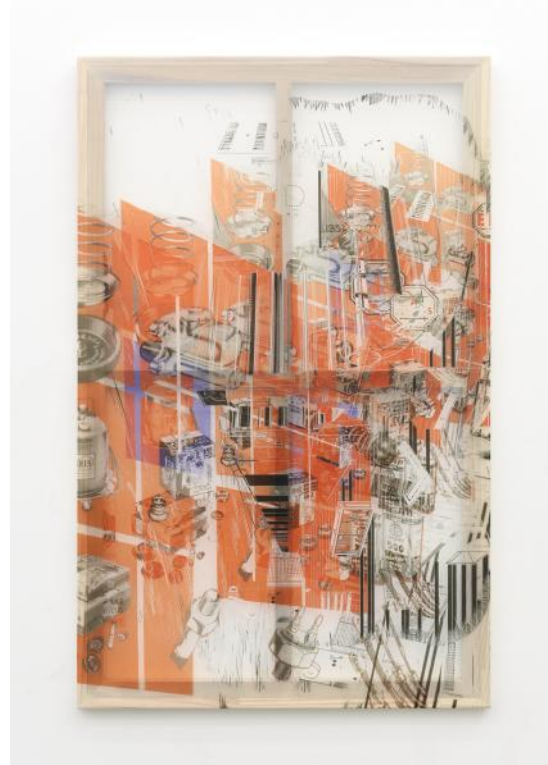
COVER IMAGE: *Untitled (baggage)*, 2016, Jibade-Khalil Huffman; archival inkjet print. Courtesy of the artist and ANAT EBGI Gallery.

INTRODUCTION

Jibade-Khalil Huffman

Poems For Every Occasion overwhelms the senses with sounds, words, moving images, still images, and projected light. When asked to describe his work, Jibade-Khalil Huffman has said, "It's about how life is complicated." Just as life has a rhythm and movement that is often interrupted or layered, Huffman's work is looped and repeated, scraped away and added to. While his work is often created from personal experiences and memories as a young African American man, Huffman's work is open ended so that anyone can see their own memories or meaning in his work.

Contemporary life is abuzz with multiple inputs like culture, other people, our own thoughts, and multiple screens. Huffman's work creates a similar experience as the viewer walks through installations that overlap artwork, screens and multiple soundtracks. His works make a conversation or dialogue as they hang together, and allow the viewer to step in to that conversation as well.



above:

Untitled (blank verse),
2017, Jibade-Khalil
Huffman; archival ink-
jet on transparency
and canvas; Courtesy
of the artist and ANAT
EBGI Gallery.

left:

KMAC installation of
The Pterodactyls, 2015
and *YOU, or RGB, or
"The Color Purple,"*
2016 Jibade-Khalil
Huffman; video, color,
sound, projection;
Courtesy of the artist
and ANAT EBGI
Gallery.

SYMBOLISM

Pre Visit Activity for Younger Students

Symbols can be very important tools in the artist's toolbox. A symbol is an object or thing that represents something else. Some symbols are known by almost everyone and other symbols are more personal—they can mean something specific to you alone. Jibade-Khalil Huffman uses symbols to help give his work meaning, to tell a story, and to encourage you to see your own story. Look at the following images and write or talk about what they symbolize to you.



CONNECT TO POETRY

Pre Visit Activity for Older Students

Jibade-Khalil Huffman went to school to be a poet, has published books of poetry, and has performed his poems live. Combining words to create rhythms, patterns, and images influenced his visual art. Sometimes his films are visual poems; sometimes his poems are collages. Read the following poem and discuss the following questions.

prayer

We were werewolves before we started fighting crime. Before we
would gather in a bar and grill near the high school. Once it was
dark

once every yard has the same commitment they all seem alike. I'm
terrified of big bridges and you are afraid of getting hit by a car. I
have been to the hospital twice this year because there is music

because I'm in love with an uptown girl doesn't mean I was struck
by lightning for ten seconds last night; as confused as I was I forgot
to include misfortune; your disappearance from horizon

from anyone seeing,

From *19 names for our band* by Jibade-Khalil Huffman
Albany: Fence Books, 2008

Discussion Questions

Pop culture often appears in Huffman's work. What is Pop Culture? Do you notice any examples of it in this poem?

Can you find a rhythm in the poem? Is anything repeated?

What images come to mind when you read it?

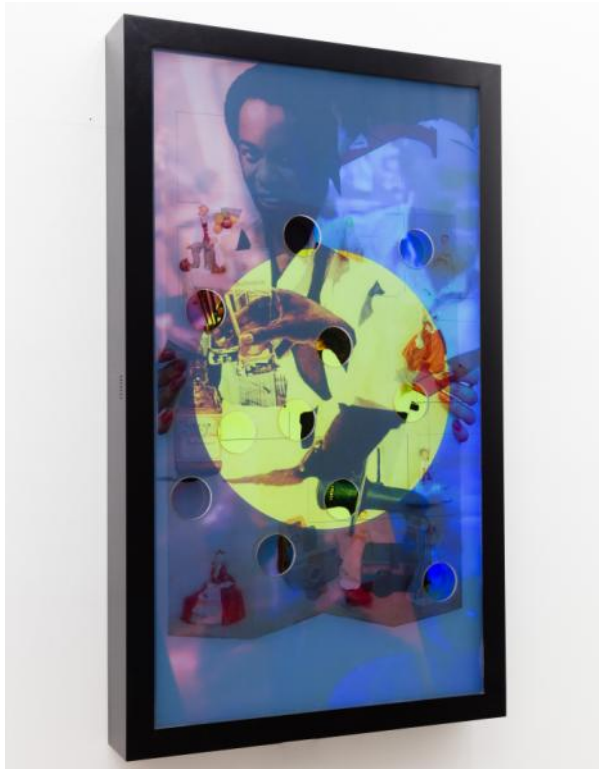
Does it bring up any memories or remind you of anything?

Do you think the narrator gets distracted or interrupted?

The title "prayer" is sampled from a Beach Boy's Song entitled "Our Prayer". "Uptown Girl" comes from a Billy Joel Song.

COLLAGE

The Mirror



ABOUT THE ARTIST

- Born in Detroit in 1981
- Has two Masters degrees, Fine Art and Literary Art
- Published 3 books of poetry
- Loves to read all the time
- Just started directing his own films
- Has a very large collection of Adidas shoes

left:

The Mirror, 2017, Jibade-Khalil Huffman; Transparencies, die cut plexi, flatscreen monitor, powder coated metal frame, looping video. Courtesy of the artist and ANAT EBGI Gallery.

Jibade-Khalil Huffman uses pieces of magazines, instruction manuals, encyclopedias, TV shows, movies, music, and commercials as layers in his art works. He uses the process of **collage** to add these things together, whether it is on a canvas, in a video, or in his soundtracks. He also uses the process of **décollage** to remove or strip away layers instead of adding them. Huffman scans materials or finds digital examples and then creates his work on a computer. In *The Mirror*, one sees a lightbox of changing colored shapes and layers of fixed and moving images from old commercials, TV shows, and news. On top of that, there are holes cut out and prints of portraits of rich, colonial-era people. Most of these pieces are borrowed from **Pop Culture** or things that have been seen or heard by many Americans—especially in their youth. Huffman uses these well-known symbols to find shared meaning with the viewers.

Discussion Questions

- What can you recognize in the picture?
- What are some examples of current Pop Culture?

VIDEO PROJECTION

Poems For Every Occasion



above:

Poems For Every Occasion, 2018, Jibade-Khalil Huffman; single channel video, color, sound. Duration 21 minutes. Courtesy of the artist and ANAT EBGI Gallery.

In the video *Poems For Every Occasion*, Jibade-Khalil Huffman brings together 30 smaller videos or **vignettes**, that he has filmed himself. Each vignette is a poem made up of a title card and then a short video with its own soundtrack of borrowed pop music and dialogues or speeches from movies and TV. While the titles are very specific, the videos are filled with images and noises that can mean different things to different viewers. Huffman worked professionally as a poet before he worked with visual art. He found that his poems worked best when he used images in the background. Now, Huffman, mostly uses images with a few words added to express himself. Other videos in the exhibit are on small screens or are projected into a room, often shining on top of other works. These multiple screens are similar to the real world experience of many young people today.

Discussion Questions

What are your favorite poems and why?
How can an image tell a whole story without any words?

VOCABULARY

Mixed Media: type of artwork where there are many types of materials used

Collage: artwork or way of making art by combining different pieces together on a background

Décollage: to unstick or remove parts in an artwork

Projection: an image that is shown on a screen or flat surface

Installation: art put together in a space to be experienced 3D

Pop Culture: books, music, movies, TV, and other things that are available and popular to the ordinary person

Vignette: a short work of film, music, or writing

LEARNING TARGETS

- I can describe elements of art and principles of design.
- I can identify meaning in visual artworks.
- I can share personal knowledge and meaningful experiences while looking at and making art.
- I can demonstrate skill in collaging.
- I can create a collage about my life.

READING CONNECTION

FOR YOUNGER STUDENTS

A Poke in the I: A Collection of Concrete Poems by Paul B. Janeczko

Hip Hop Speaks to Children: A Celebration of Poetry with a Beat by Nikki Giovanni

Tar Beach by Faith Ringgold

Look! Look! Look! by Nancy Elizabeth Wallace

A Curious Collection of Cats by Betsy Franco

FOR OLDER STUDENTS

Love That Dog: A Novel by Sharon Creech

A Kick in the Head: An Everyday Guide to Poetic Forms by Paul B. Janeczko

Paint Me Like I Am by Bill Aguado

Make a Zine: When Words and Graphics Collide by Bill Brent and Joel Biel

How to Make a Movie in 10 Easy Lessons by Robert Blofield

INTERNET RESOURCES

Kmacmuseum.org
Poetryfoundation.org/children
Learnaboutfilms.com
Poets.org
Play.magneticpoetry.com

STANDARDS

Content standards addressed in this tour and art-making activity

KY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FOR MEDIA ARTS

- Anchor 1:** Generate and conceptualize artistic ideas and work
- Anchor 2:** Organize and develop artistic ideas and work
- Anchor 3:** Refine and complete artistic work
- Anchor 5:** Develop and refine artistic technique and work for presentation
- Anchor 7:** Perceive and analyze artistic work
- Anchor 8:** Interpret intent and meaning in artistic work
- Anchor 9:** Apply criteria to evaluate artistic work
- Anchor 10:** Synthesize and relate knowledge and personal experiences to make art
- Anchor 11:** Relate artistic ideas and works with societal, cultural, and historical context

KY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FOR ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

- SL.K-12.1** Participate in conversations with others and express ideas
- SL.K-12.2** Integrate and evaluate information from diverse media
- W.K-12.1** Write arguments based on visual evidence

KY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FOR SOCIAL STUDIES

- SS-6,7,8-HP-U-1** Understanding interactions between people and groups
- SS-6,7,8-HP-S-1** Understanding the interpretive nature of history

HANDS-ON ART

Personal Narrative Collage

Find some old magazines, newspapers, or books. You will also need a piece of thick paper, scissors, and glue. You can tell a story about your life through images that you cut out of the found objects. You can arrange them in a scene or just put them together as a group. Glue them in place on the paper when you like what you have created. Share with your friends and see if they come up with the same story.

WHAT DID YOU SEE?

Post Visit Activity

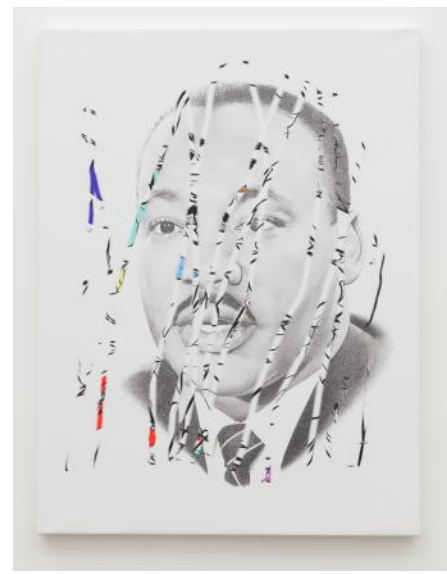
Write the title of three works you remember and then answer the following questions thoughtfully.

	Title #1	Title #2	Title #3
Describe the artwork. Try to use words related to the elements of art (line, shape, form, space, color, value, texture).			
What materials and processes did the artist use? How did the materials effect the way you understood the artwork?			
What is the Big Idea? Describe a theme or a story you found in the artwork.			
Describe your reaction to the work. What did the art remind you of?			

CONNECT TO POETRY

Post Visit Activity

Many of the works you saw in *Poems For Every Occasion* are inspired by poetry or are visual poems themselves. Pick one of the artworks below or one that you remember from the exhibition. Write a poem inspired by that artwork. (You could try a Narrative, Concrete, Haiku, Limerick, Free Verse, or Lyrical poem!)



above left to right:

Untitled (Dancecard 3), 2017, inkjet on transparency and canvas. *Untitled (baggage)*, 2016, archival inkjet print. *One Persons Anxiety is Another Persons Anxiety (Martin B)*, 2018, inkjet, acrylic and graphite on canvas. All works by Jibade-Khalil Huffman. All works courtesy of the artist and ANAT EBGI Gallery, Los Angeles.