

Pratt Institute

# EVOCATIVE OBJECTS



**Pratt** Art and Design Education

ADE

"We think with the objects we love; we love the objects we think with."  
Sherry Turkle, **Evocative Objects: Things We Think With** (2011)

# Introduction

This booklet presents examples of artwork made by young artists ages 6-18. Included are essential questions and contemporary artworks that might have inspired their work.

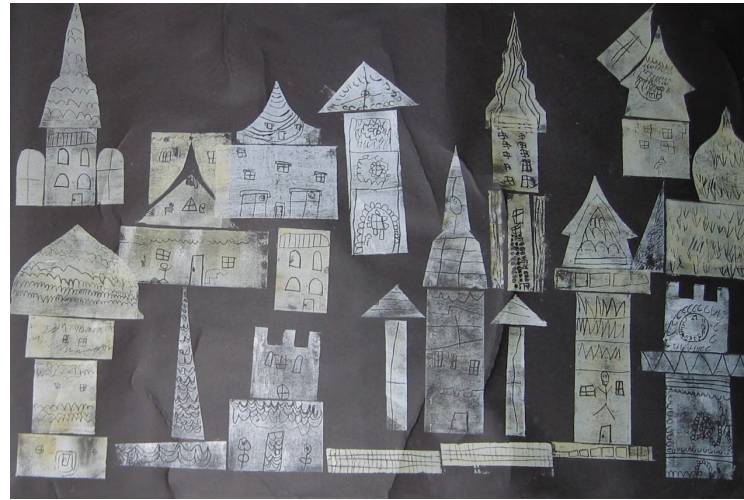
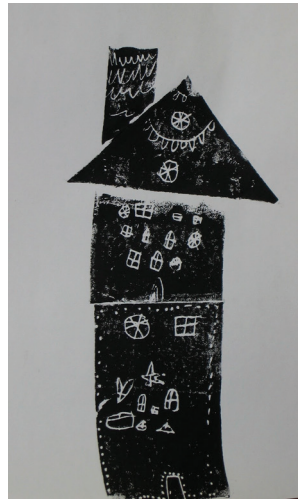
All of the projects featured here were made under the guidance of Pratt Institute's Art and Design Education (ADE) faculty, alumni, student teachers, or ADE's international partners. The text provides contextual information for each project including the age of the children, the materials used, and the time the young artists spent making their work.

The resource is intended to serve as inspiration for student-teachers who are designing art or design projects for young people. The artwork shows what K-12 pupils are capable of making when provided with strong instruction, high-quality materials, and exposure to the work and ideas of contemporary artists.

We invite student teachers to interpret and expand upon the examples offered here, adapting them to their own unique teaching contexts. For example, with thoughtful planning a 2nd grade collagraph self-portrait could inspire a high school printmaking project, using the same processes to a higher degree of sophistication. Likewise, a high school oil painting of fruit could be adapted to suit younger makers, substituting different painting media and subject matter.



# Ages 6-8



**Building Prints**  
Materials: Foam, printing ink, paper  
Size: Varied  
Worktime: 4 hours  
Instructor: Mary Elmer-DeWitt

# Ages 6-8



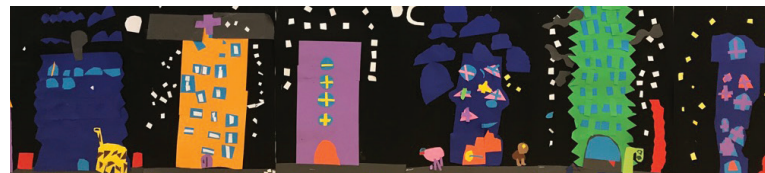
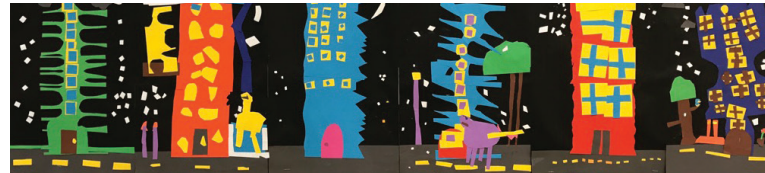
**Observational Drawing: School Neighborhood**  
Materials: Ebony pencil on white paper  
Size: 9" X 12"  
Worktime: 45 mins  
Instructor: Katherine Huala

## Essential Questions

What objects are important to you, and why?

How can we learn more about an object through close observation?

How can we use our senses to explore and depict objects that are important to us?



**City Skyline**  
Materials: Construction paper  
Size: 11"x 14"  
Worktime: 3 hours  
Instructor: Katherine Huala



**Observational Drawing: Toy Animals**  
Materials: Sumi ink on white paper  
Size: 12" x 18"  
Worktime: 45 mins  
Instructor: Katherine Huala

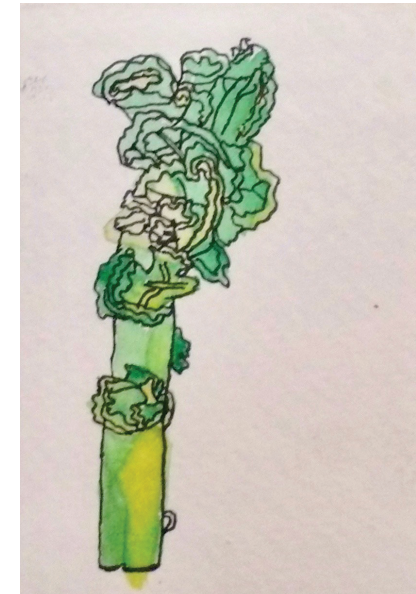


# Ages 9-12

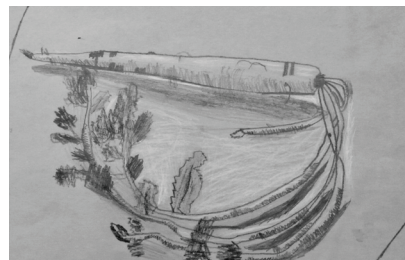
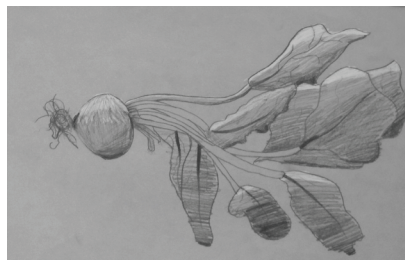


**Observational Drawing:  
Artificial Flowers**  
Materials: Ebony pencil on  
white paper  
Size: 9" x 12"  
Worktime: 45 mins  
Instructor: Katherine Huala

# Ages 9-12



**Vegetables in Watercolor**  
Materials: Micron pens, tray watercolors,  
Strathmore watercolor trading cards  
Size: 2.5" x 3.5"  
Worktime: 45 mins  
Instructor: Mary Elmer-DeWitt



**Observational Drawing:  
Beets and Carrots**  
Materials: Ebony and white pencils  
on gray paper  
Size: 9" x 12"  
Worktime: 45 mins  
Instructor: Mary Elmer-DeWitt

## Essential Questions

How do objects tell stories?

What techniques can I use to  
depict the qualities of an object?

How can artists transform  
everyday objects?

How do artists arrange objects  
in interesting ways?



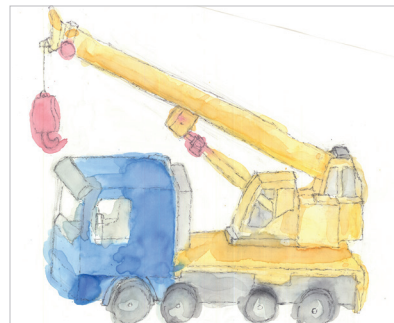
**Observational Drawing:  
Vegetables in Oil Pastel**  
Materials: Oil pastel on Black Paper  
Size: 9" x 12"  
Worktime: 45 mins  
Instructor: Mary Elmer-DeWitt



# Ages 13-15



**Personal Object Still Life**  
Materials: Hand-painted paper collage  
Size: 14" x 16"  
Worktime: 5 hours  
Instructor: Katherine Huala



**Trucks**  
Materials: Watercolor and micropen  
on mixed media paper  
Size: 24" x 36"  
Worktime: 4 hours  
Instructor: Diane Sim

## Essential Questions

How can we describe the physical and expressive qualities of an object?

How do artists use objects as symbols?

How do artists use still life to convey meaning?

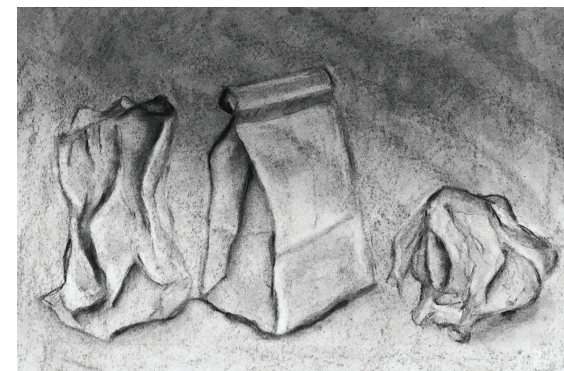
# Ages 13-15



**Fruit bowls**  
Materials: Oil pastels  
Size: L: 10.5" x 12"; R: 11.5" x 11.5"  
Worktime: 4 hours  
Instructor: Mary Elmer DeWitt and Aileen Wilson



**Favorite Food**  
Materials: Oil pastels  
Size: L 12" x 14"  
Worktime: 4 hours  
Instructor: Yun Ju Yu and Annice Kim



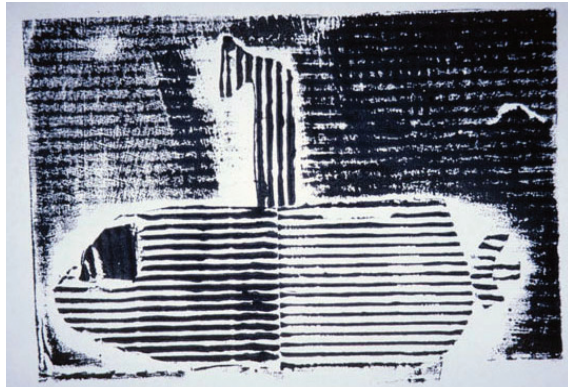
**Observational Drawing of White Paper Bags**  
Materials: Charcoal on grounded paper  
Size: 12" x 18"  
Worktime: 3 hours  
Instructor: Katherine Huala



# Ages 13-15



**Fruit bowls**  
Materials: Watercolor on mixed media paper  
Size: 20" x 15"  
Worktime: 4 hours  
Instructor: Aileen Wilson



**Collagraph Exploration**  
Materials: Cardboard, glue, block printing ink and paper  
Size: 12" x 18"  
Worktime: 3 hours  
Instructor: Aileen Wilson



**Relief print**  
Materials: Linoleum and block printing ink and paper  
Size: Various  
Worktime: 4 hours  
Instructor: Aileen Wilson

# Ages 13-15



**Stuffed animals**  
Materials: Charcoal on white drawing paper  
Size: 12" x 18"  
Worktime: 3 hours  
Instructor: Katherine Huala



**Personal Objects**  
Materials: Charcoal on white drawing paper  
Size: 12" x 18"  
Worktime: Unknown  
Instructor: Katherine Huala



# Ages 13-15



## **Monochromatic Painting of Metallic Surface**

Materials: Watercolor on paper

Size: 9" x 12"

Worktime: 2-3 hours

Instructor: Kelly Oh



## **Pomegranates**

Materials: Watercolor on paper

Size: 9" x 12"

Worktime: 3-4 hours

Instructor: Kelly Oh



## **Everything but the kitchen sink**

Materials: Water-soluble oil on canvas panel

Size: 9" x 12"

Worktime: 6 hours

Instructor: Kelly Oh

# Ages 13-15



## **Food Portrait**

Materials: Water-soluble oil on canvas panel

Size: 9" x 12"

Worktime: 8 hours

Instructor: Kelly Oh



## **Visual Poetry (conceptual drawing)**

Materials: Color pencil on paper

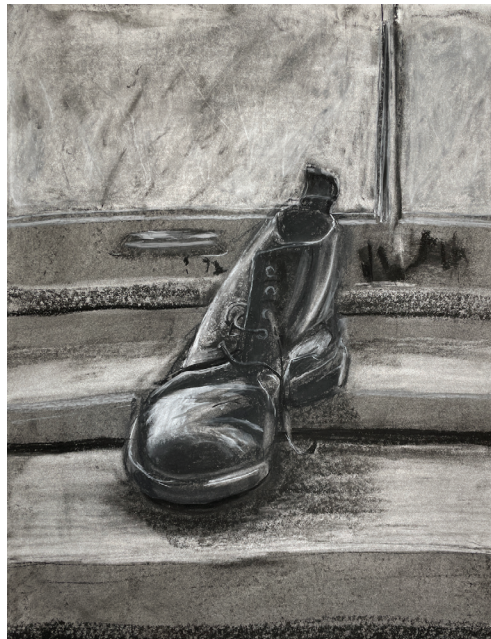
Size: 9" x 12"

Worktime: 4 hours

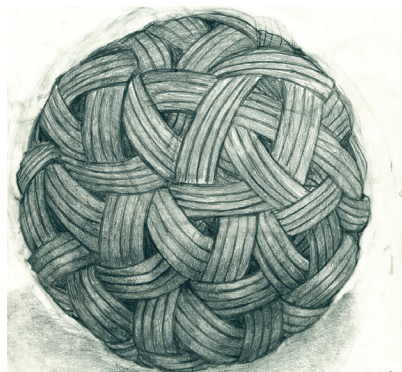
Instructor: Kelly Oh



# Ages 16-18



**Shoes**  
Materials: Charcoal on paper  
Size: 12" x 16"  
Worktime: 3 hours  
Instructor: Jonathan Peck



**Ball drawing and monoprint**  
Materials: Paper, ebony pencil, pens, plexiglass, oil-based inks, brayer.  
Size: L 11.5" x 11.5"; R 18" x 24"  
Worktime: 4-6 hours  
Instructor: Aileen Wilson

## Essential Questions

How do objects hold personal and cultural meaning?

How and why do artists experiment with stylistic approaches to still life?

What compositional choices do artists use to express ideas through objects?

# Ages 16-18



**Handbuilt Vessels**  
Materials: Earthenware, glaze  
Size: Various  
Worktime: 8-12 hours  
Instructor: Jess Simpson-Sommerville



**Exploring Sculpture/Ceramics**  
Materials: Earthenware, glaze  
Size: Various  
Worktime: 8-12 hours  
Instructor: Jess Simpson-Somerville



**Toy Paintings**  
Materials: Water soluble oil paint  
Size: " x 12"  
Worktime: 6 hours  
Instructor: Mary Elmer-DeWitt and Tara Kopp



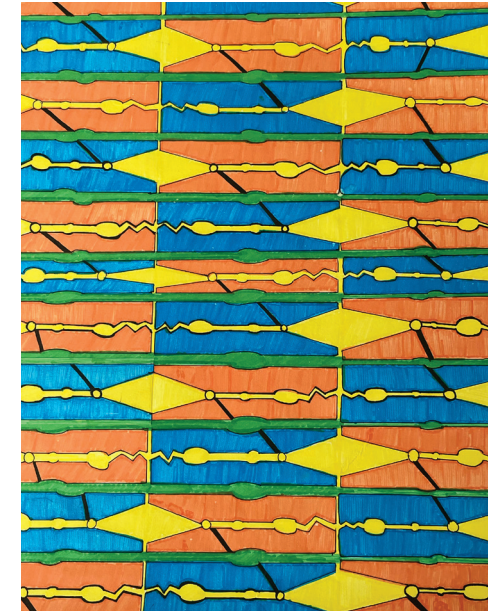
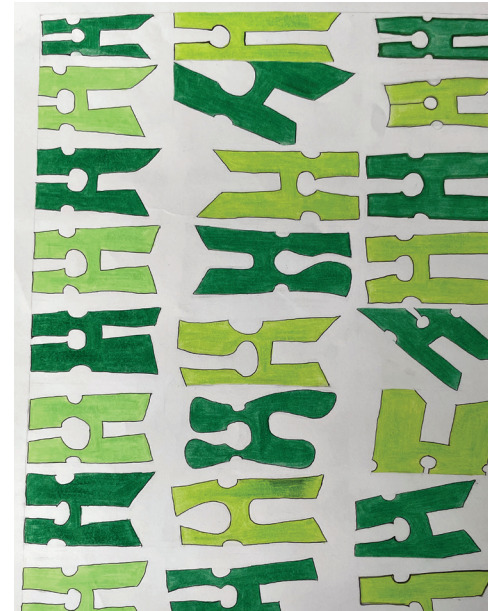
# Ages 16-18



## Still-Life

Materials: Watercolor on paper  
Size: 9" x 12"  
Worktime: 6 hours  
Instructor: Kelly Oh

# Ages 16-18



## Repetition with one object (clothes pins)

Materials: Acrylic paints, prismacolor markers  
Size: Various  
Worktime: unknown  
Instructor: International Colleagues



## Toys

Materials: Paper, linoleum, linoleum tools, water-based block printing ink, plexiglass, brayer.  
Size: 12" x 12"  
Worktime: 6 hours  
Instructor: Aileen Wilson



## Pratt Sculpture Park

Materials: Watercolor on paper  
Size: 9" x 12"  
Worktime: 6 hours  
Instructor: Kelly Oh



# Artists for Inspiration



Nellie Jonsson, *Alicante*, 2021, 2023.  
Glazed Ceramics  
[nelliejonsson.univer.se/](http://nelliejonsson.univer.se/)



Stephanie Shih, *Untitled*, 2023  
Glazed Ceramics  
[berggruen.com/artists/stephanie-h-shih](http://berggruen.com/artists/stephanie-h-shih)



Syd Carpenter, *O'Neale Smalls*, 2020  
Ceramic  
[syd-carpenter.swarthmore.edu/](http://syd-carpenter.swarthmore.edu/)

# Artists for Inspiration



Vija Celmins, *Lamp #1*, 1964  
Oil on canvas  
[tate.org.uk/art/artists/vija-celmins-2731/explore-art-vija-celmins](http://tate.org.uk/art/artists/vija-celmins-2731/explore-art-vija-celmins)



Langdon Graves, *Home Circle (Growth)*, 2022  
Caligo ink relief on archival paper  
[upriseart.com/artists/langdon-graves](http://upriseart.com/artists/langdon-graves)



Michael Polakowski, *What's In Front Of You*, 2024  
Colored Pencil On Acrylic Paper  
[michaelpolakowski.com/](http://michaelpolakowski.com/)



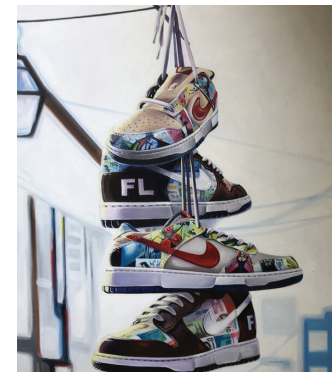
Linda Nguyen Lopez, *Sea Green Mop*, 2019  
Earthenware  
[lindalopez.net/](http://lindalopez.net/)



Sara Suppan, *Two Monarchs*, 2023  
Oil on canvas panel  
[sarasuppan.com/projects/2023](http://sarasuppan.com/projects/2023)



Nora Riggs, *Still Life with Nutter Butters*, 2024  
Watercolor on paper  
[tifsigfrids.com/artists/nora-riggs/](http://tifsigfrids.com/artists/nora-riggs/)



Raphael Crump, *Fine Art of Dunks*, 2018  
Acrylic on canvas  
[www.raphealcrump.com/](http://www.raphealcrump.com/)



Mikiko Azuma, *Rug Doll #5*, 2009  
Acrylic on paper, mounted on panel  
[artsy.net/artist/mikiko-azuma](http://artsy.net/artist/mikiko-azuma)



Charlotte Mui, *Quiche*, 2022  
Watercolor and acrylic on paper  
[artsy.net/artwork/charlotte-mui-quiche](http://artsy.net/artwork/charlotte-mui-quiche)



# Artists for Inspiration



Christopher Boffoli, *Strawberry Seed Harvester*, 2013  
Archival pigment ink print on metallic paper  
[seattle.winstonwachter.com/artists/christopher-boffoli/](http://seattle.winstonwachter.com/artists/christopher-boffoli/)

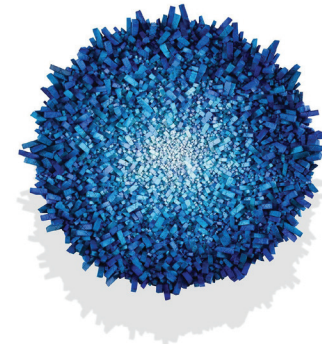


Georganna Greene, *Desk Top with Glass, Jar, Phone, Mug, and Lid Ink Palette*, 2023  
Ink and watercolor on paper  
[georgannagreene.com/about-contact](http://georgannagreene.com/about-contact)



Nomadic Fungi Institute, *NFI Lab Sample: Penzoil Flatbed Truck*, 2019  
Nomadic fungus and car  
[artsy.net/artist/nomadic-fungi-institute](http://artsy.net/artist/nomadic-fungi-institute)

# Artists for Inspiration



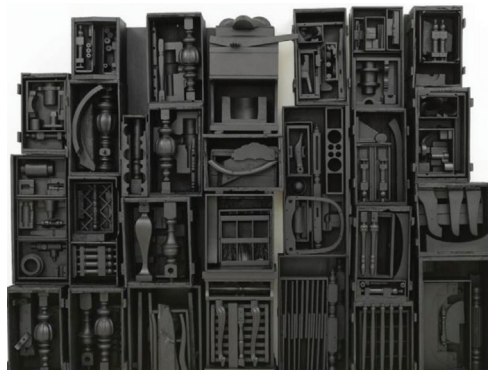
Kwang Young Chun, *Aggregation17-SE065 (Star21)*, 2017  
Mixed media with Korean mulberry paper  
[operagallery.com/artist/chun-kwang-young](http://operagallery.com/artist/chun-kwang-young)



Hangama Amiri, *Departure*, 2022  
Muslin, cotton, polyester, clear vinyl, iridescent paper, faux leather, chiffon, and found fabric.  
[hangamaamiri.com/en](http://hangamaamiri.com/en)



Calixte Dakpogan, *Ambassadeur*, 2010  
Metal, plastic, paper, lightbulb, synthetic hair, and other found materials  
[caacart.com/artiste/dakpogan-calixte/](http://caacart.com/artiste/dakpogan-calixte/)



Louise Nevelson, *Untitled (Sky Cathedral)*, 1958  
Wood painted black  
[moma.org/collection/works/81006](http://moma.org/collection/works/81006)



Gabriel Orozco, *Sandstars*, 2012  
Installation made with found objects  
[guggenheim.org/artwork/30591](http://guggenheim.org/artwork/30591)



Cover Image

***Sneakers***  
Materials: Oil Pastel  
Size: 18"x24"  
Worktime: 4 hours  
Instructor: Toni Shi



