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Nari Ward *We the People* (black version)

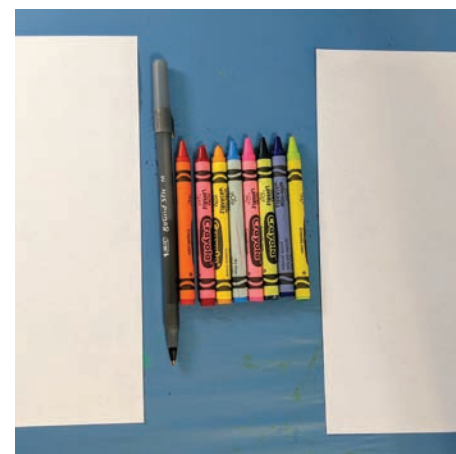


Nari Ward, *We the People* (black version), 2015, shoelaces, 96 in. x 27 ft. Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Bentonville, Arkansas, 2016.26. Photography by Edward C. Robison III.

Take a moment to look at the image above. What did you notice first? What do you think the colorful lines are made of?

Nari Ward used shoelaces to spell the phrase “We the People,” which is also the title of this piece. *We the People* represents the first three words of the United States of America’s Constitution. Ward’s artwork reminds us that the United States is composed of many different and unique people, just like the artwork is made of many different shoelaces. Also, Ward invites us to find our own identity and the different roles we play within our communities.

Now we are going to make our own artwork using words about ourselves!



Grab these materials from **My Museum Classroom Kit**
Drawing Paper (thin, white paper)
Crayons
Pen



2

Will Wilson, *Casey Camp-Horinek*



Will Wilson, *Casey Camp-Horinek, Citizen of Ponca Tribe of Oklahoma, "Zhuthi," Tribal Council Woman, Leader of the Ponca Scalp Dance Society, Sundancer, Delegate to UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, Matriarch of wonderful family (grandmother, companion, mother, sister), Defender of Mother Earth*, 2016, archival pigment print from wet plate collodion scan, 55 x 45 in.

Take a moment to look at the image above. What do you notice about the woman in the photo? What is she wearing? What is she holding?

Will Wilson took a picture of Casey Camp-Horinek who is a citizen of the Ponca Tribe of Oklahoma. Camp-Horinek plays an important role within her tribe as someone who protects the earth and values her family. She is dressed in an outfit mostly worn for special occasions within her tribe.

Have you ever had your picture taken? If you could pose for a photo today, what would you wear and what objects would you show? What might those objects say about you, your role, or your identity?

We are going to make a picture with objects and shapes that represent who you are!



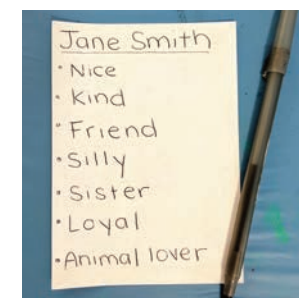
Grab these materials from **My Museum Classroom Kit**
Foam sheet
Drawing paper (thin, white paper)
Pen
Watercolor paper (thick, white paper)
Markers
Sponge
With permission from an adult, use these materials in your home:
Cup of water



1



2



3

Step 1 Before you begin this project, let’s talk about the paper types in your kit. For this project, you will need the thin, white paper. Don’t use the thick, textured white paper—that will be for your next project!

Step 2 To start off, use as many crayon colors as you want to decorate your thin, white paper. Make sure to color the majority of the paper, pushing down hard with your crayons. The harder you push, the better the final result will be.

Step 3 Once your white paper is completely colored, take a moment to think about some words that describe who you are. On another sheet of paper, write down those words. You can write your name over and over again, or you can think of other words that describe you. What makes you who you are?



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Step 4 Place your colored sheet aside. Take a new piece of thin, white paper and place it down on your workspace. Place your colored sheet on top of this blank white paper. Make sure to keep the two papers in place—don’t let them move around.

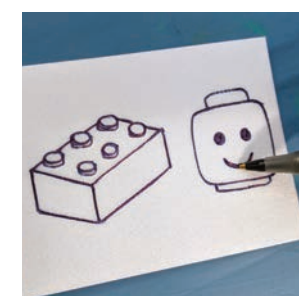
Step 5 Begin to draw a portrait or picture of yourself. Push down hard with your pen. Once you have drawn the image of yourself, fill up the blank spaces with the words you wrote down that describe yourself. You can also draw a few decorations as well.

Step 6 Once you feel you are done with your drawing, lift up the top piece of paper and look on the back. Examine how the crayon moved from one paper to the other when you drew on top of it. Admire your awesome word portrait!

#MyMuseumKit



1



2



3

Step 1 Before you begin this project, let’s talk about the paper types in your kit. For this project, you will need the thin, white paper. Don’t use the thick, textured white paper—that will be for your next project!

Step 2 Take a moment to think of some objects that represent who you are. What are your hobbies or interests? Grab your pen and your foam sheet. The foam sheet should feel like stiff plastic used for cups or coolers. Begin to draw those objects on your foam sheet with your pen, pushing down hard enough to leave an indent or marking. Repeat the process until your entire foam sheet is covered in objects that represent you!

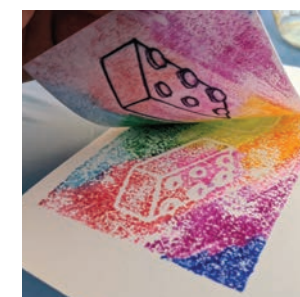
Step 3 Use your markers to color your foam sheet. You can use multiple colors to decorate each object. The markers will seem like they’re not sticking to the sheet correctly, but don’t worry! It will print beautifully soon. When you’re done coloring, put your foam sheet aside.



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Step 4 Grab your thick, textured watercolor paper, sponge, and water cup. Dip your sponge into the water. Make sure to squeeze out most of the water. You only want your sponge to be damp or slightly wet.

Step 5 Take your damp sponge and wipe it all over your watercolor paper, making sure to cover the whole sheet. This will help the marker print onto the paper. Your paper should be damp but not too wet.

Step 6 Grab your colorful foam sheet and place it face down onto your damp watercolor paper. Push and rub the colors around using your hands. Once you’re done, pull the foam sheet off of your watercolor paper and admire your print!

#MyMuseumKit

Reflection/Activity

3rd grade

After you talk with your teacher and class, write a short paragraph to explain how the US Constitution came to be written. Why did our nation’s founders think the Constitution was needed?

Today we think of the word citizen differently than people did in 1789. In that time period, citizens meant white men who owned property and could vote—nobody else was considered a citizen. Talk with your class and teacher, or your parents, about how we understand the word citizen today.

Why do you think the artist Nari Ward chose the words “We the People” to make into an artwork?

4th grade

After you talk with your teacher and class, write a short paragraph to explain the purpose of the US Constitution.

How have the rights and responsibilities of American citizens changed since the Constitution was written?

Either in writing or in conversation with your class and teacher, explain why you think the artist Nari Ward chose the words “We the People” to make into an artwork.

5th grade

After you talk with your teacher and class, analyze the process that the nation’s founders worked through to create the United States of America from a loose confederation of individual states.

What do you think it means to be a citizen of the United States today? Explain in a short paragraph.

Why do you think the artist Nari Ward chose the words “We the People” to make into an artwork?

Reflection/Activity

3rd Grade

The woman in the photograph is a member of the Ponca Tribe of Oklahoma. The Ponca did not originally come from there, so in a conversation with your teacher and class, discuss how and why the Ponca Tribe came to live in Oklahoma.

The title of the photograph of Casey Camp-Horinek tells us about her identity as a person and the roles she plays in her community. The objects she holds and wears symbolize some of those roles. With your class, research the different roles she plays and create a narrative about one of those roles.

Explain why you think the artist Will Wilson chose this woman as a subject for his photography.

4th Grade

Citizens have rights and responsibilities in their communities. The title of the artwork tells us the different roles Casey Camp-Horinek plays in her tribe, so we can see that she is important to her people. Discuss her responsibilities to the Ponca Tribe with your teacher and class.

How do you think your rights and responsibilities as a citizen of your community will change as you get older? Consider those changes either in writing or in discussion with your teacher and class. She holds and wears objects that symbolize some of her community roles and responsibilities.

Share with your class some objects that symbolize the roles and responsibilities you have in your class, family, or community.

5th Grade

Compare how the people of the Ponca Tribe of Oklahoma live today with how they lived in the past. What are, or were their homes like? How do, or did they make a living? What are, or were men’s and women’s roles in the community?

With your class, do a little research to explain how the people of the Ponca Tribe used natural resources in the past. How was the Ponca way different from the way settlers used land? Why do you think those differences existed?

Many Americans today think that all Native American tribes were the same, but we know they were not in the past and are not today. Choose another tribal group and research their culture, their beliefs, their traditional use of land, and their traditional homes to compare with the Ponca Tribe of Oklahoma.



Crystal Bridges
Museum of American Art