



Hung Liu, *Imperial Garden*, 2014. Cast resin mixed media on box, hand painted by the artist, 60" x 97" Image courtesy of Trillium Graphics

About this Teaching Resource:

This packet features artwork from the exhibition [*Dis/placements: Revisitations of Home*](#) which is featured as a virtual exhibition at the Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art at the College of Charleston. It is intended as a tool to help you look at art with your children/students. You can prepare for your inquiry-based discussions by reviewing the background information provided. Then use the Questions for Viewing below and artwork reproductions to look closely, think critically, and respond to the art together. Extend your investigations with one or more of the suggested activity ideas. In general, questions for younger audiences are listed first followed by progressively more complex ideas. Feel free to adapt the suggested activities according to the age group you are working with. We encourage you to check out the [Halsey Institute's blog](#) for articles and activities related to the show, as well as interviews with some of the artists.

Share your teaching stories with us! If you use these materials, let us know by email at halsey@cofc.edu

About the Exhibition:

Dis/placements features ten artists whose works deal with issues of displacement from their ancestral homeland in various capacities. The artists have been drawn from the exhibition history of the Halsey Institute. Each artist was asked to submit works that speak most directly to their reminiscences of home. Artists were paired with writers who have offered their own reflections on the work and its relationship to the concepts of home and displacement. When taken together, this collection of work provides an opportunity to consider the traits and aspects that are both similar and jarringly disparate—from Asia to Africa, to Europe and the Middle East.

Ideas of home have taken on new meaning in this fraught moment of pandemic. For many, home has become a place to cocoon where hours run into days, weeks, and months. For people less fortunate, home can represent insecurity and be charged with fear; and for those on the frontlines of COVID-19 it may be a place newly tenuous, frequented for momentary respite at best.

As a formative dimension of the human condition, focus on home is a constant in the arts at scales from the family residence to the neighborhood to the homeland. Homelands are central to our collective imagining of our place in the world. For most of us most of the time, they can be taken for granted, celebrated periodically, before receding to form the backdrop against which life plays out. Made inaccessible or, worse, lost, they can be mythologized as places to be coveted, spied from afar, encountered, experienced, perhaps recovered if only ephemerally.

Artists and their respondent writers are:

Shimon Attie | Dr. Dale Rosengarten
Riccarda de Eccher | Bryan Granger
Lonnie Holley | Dr. Ted Rosengarten
Yaakov Israel | Dr. Mark Long
Hung Liu | Katie Hirsch
Jiha Moon | Lilly Wei
Dr. Fahamu Pecou | Ruth Rambo
Hamid Rahmanian | Mark Sloan
Tanja Softić | Dr. Marian Mazzone
Renée Stout | Dr. Ade Ofunniyin

Shimon Attie's work reflects on the relationship between place, memory, and identity. His artistic practice includes creating site-specific installations in public places, accompanying art photographs, immersive multiple-channel video and mixed-media installations for museums and galleries, and new media works.

Riccarda de Eccher grew up in Udine, Italy. She started painting primarily watercolors later in her life. Her love of mountains has made them the subject of her work.

Since 1979, Lonnie Holley has devoted his life to the practice of improvisational creativity. His work incorporates natural and man-made objects, already imbued with cultural and artistic associations, into narrative sculptures that commemorate places, people, and events.

Yaakov Israel focuses on long-term independent projects, which reflect on the way the religious, social, and political affect and create his personal reality. His gaze is constantly investigating the Israeli identity as perceived through architecture, landscape, and the country's diverse population.

Hung Liu grew up in China under the Maoist regime and was initially trained as a painter in the Socialist Realist style. Liu's work combines historical photographs with traditional Chinese iconography, assigning contemporary narratives and identities to historical moments.

Jiha Moon's gestural paintings, mixed media, ceramic sculpture, and installations explore fluid identities and the global movement of people and their cultures.

Dr. Fahamu Pecou is an interdisciplinary artist and scholar whose work combines observations on hip-hop, fine art, and popular culture. Pecou's work seeks to provide a crucial intervention in contemporary representations of Black masculinity.

Hamid Rahmanian was raised and educated in Tehran, Iran where he was a celebrated graphic designer for many years. His work intertwines reality and fantasy to reflect on what it means to be an immigrant in a global narrative that defies borders.

Tanja Softić was born in Sarajevo, Yugoslavia (present-day Bosnia and Herzegovina). She works across the media of printmaking, drawing, photography, and book arts to explore questions of cultural belonging, hybridity, and memory.

Originally trained as a painter, Renée Stout moved to Washington, D.C. in 1985 where she began to explore the spiritual roots of her African American heritage through her work.

Questions for Viewing:

Reproductions of the artworks in this section have been included at the end of the packet. You can also view the pieces in the virtual exhibition by [clicking here](#)! Although not required, older audiences may want to read the accompanying essays to gain a better understanding of each artist and their work.

Take time to look through the entire exhibit slowly.
Close your eyes and describe the artwork from memory. Why did you remember what you remembered? Why did you forget what you forgot?

Take time to think about your home, your neighborhood, and your community. What's a memory that makes you happy? What do you look forward to when you wake up? What smells, sounds, or tastes remind you of home?

Look at the body of work by Tanja Softić. How would you describe this artwork to someone who has never seen it? What elements seem dreamlike or imaginary?

Look at the body of work by Jiha Moon. What is the title of each piece? How does the title contribute to your understanding of the meaning?

Look at the body of work by Fahamu Pecou. Portraits often include five elements: pose, gesture, facial expression, clothing, and props. Mimic the poses in each piece. What words describe how you feel in this pose? Look closely at gesture and facial expression. What can you tell about this person based on gesture and facial expression? How do you think this person is feeling? What might this person be thinking? What do you see that makes you say that?

A symbol is an object used to stand for an idea or belief. Which items do you see throughout the exhibition that may represent symbols of home? Why do you think the artist might have chosen to include these particular symbols?

Look at the body of work by Shimon Attie. Find three details in the artwork that appear in unexpected places. How might these details relate to home for the artist?

Suggested Activities:

Describe and Draw It

Think about your home, your neighborhood, and your community. If you drew everything that came to your head, what would you be drawing right now?

Paper Bag House

Give each child a brown paper bag. Have them decorate the bag to look like a house, with a variety of materials (felt, construction paper, markers, etc.). When done, stuff the bag with newspaper. Staple top together. Fold a piece of construction paper or scrapbook paper in half, and staple it on the top of the house for a roof.

Shape Houses

Provide an assortment of construction paper shapes: squares, triangles, rectangles, and circles. Have children glue a variety of shapes onto a large piece of construction paper to create shape houses. Ask them to describe their final project.

Imagine Your Home

Ask children to design their dream home in the medium of their choosing. Ideas include: a treehouse, a secret fort, a spaceship, or a castle. Ask them to describe their final project and why it is their dream home.

Collage Prompt

Provide a variety of magazines, old books, scrap papers, or found objects. Using the prompt, "What does home mean to you?" have children make their own collage using glue, scissors, and construction paper. Remind them that home can mean something different for everyone. It can be as literal as a house, apartment, city, or town. It can be their favorite toy, comfort food, or a certain scent. It can be their national, cultural, or religious identity. Ask them if they would like to share and discuss their final collage, and invite them to display it somewhere in their home.

Out in the Open

Create a series of four or five photographs to document a facet of your community usually kept out of view that you want to bring to attention. For example, you might identify police searching or interrogating young people in your neighborhood, restaurant workers who work in kitchens behind closed doors, or domestic workers who clean offices and private homes. Consider why the activities portrayed in your photos are often done out of view. Why is it important for you to bring this out into the open? Record your opinion in an artist statement to share alongside your photographs.

Our Stories Are Ourselves (Social Studies)

Many of the featured artists of the exhibition use art to share their experiences as immigrants, refugees, or displaced persons. Identify and research an immigration story from a place of your choosing. Share that story in writing and/or visual formats.

Strings and Things

Renee Stout and Lonnie Hollie use a number of everyday materials in their work. Materials like these are often called “found objects,” because they are items not normally considered art, and often already have a non-art function. Gather materials from your home and places you visit regularly. Choose items that have different textures, shapes, colors, and sizes. Share your selection with a classmate, friend, or family member. Discuss how you might create a sculpture from them that uses at least one of the following principles: balance, proportion, repetition, and movement. Use tape, string, or rubber bands to assemble your sculpture. Experiment with stationery supplies such as paper, glue, crayons, and colored pencils, to add further decorative elements. Interview your peer about his/her artistic process. Use the following questions as a guide: How did you come up with the idea for your artwork? Describe the process you used for creating your sculpture. What was the easiest part? What was the hardest? What do you like most about your artwork? If you could change anything, what would it be? Switch roles and share your answers with your partner. What answers did you have in common? What was different?

Related Readings available through Charleston County Public Library:

The Pout-Pout Fish: Far, Far From Home by Deborah Diesen

Reading level: 2-6 years old

A House Is a House for Me by Mary Ann Hoberman

Reading level: 4-6 years

This Is Our House by Hyewon Yum

Reading level: 4-7 years

Home by Carson Ellis

Reading level: 4-8 years

This Is My Room (No Tigers Allowed) by Jennifer Richard Jacobsen

Reading level: 4-8 years

Santiago's Road Home by Alexandra Diaz

Reading level: 8-12 years

Related Readings available through the Hoopla Application (browser and smartphone) with Charleston County Public Library:

Little Bear's Big House by Benjamin Chaud

Reading Level: 3-5 years

Like the Moon Loves the Sky by Hena Khan

Reading level: 3-5 years

Home: A Collaboration of Thirty Authors & Illustrators

Reading level: 4-8 years

My Home, Your Home by Lisa Bullard

Reading level: 5-8 years

Library Mouse: Home Sweet Home by Daniel Kirk

Reading level: 6-9 years

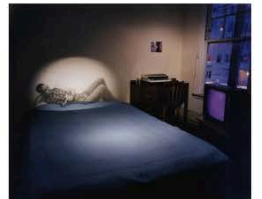
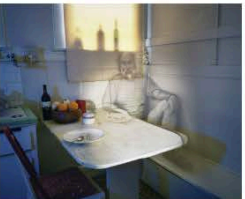
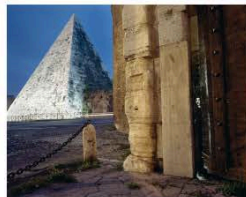
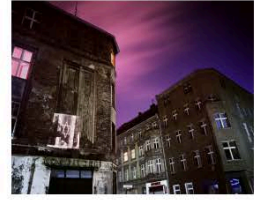
Other Words for Home by Jasmine Warga

Reading level: 8-12 years

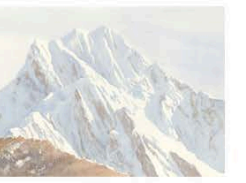
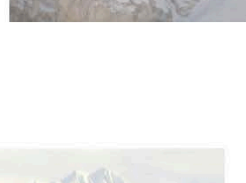
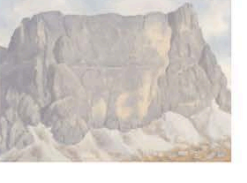
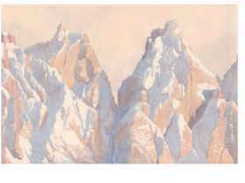
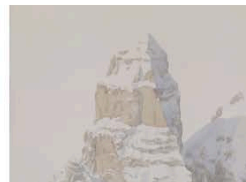
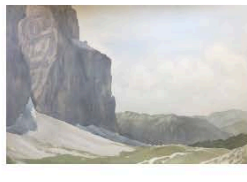
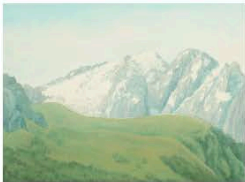
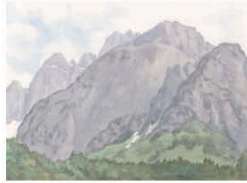
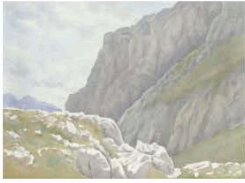
Artwork Images:

Below are thumbnail images of the pieces included in this virtual exhibition. To see full-size images, visit the project website: displacements.org

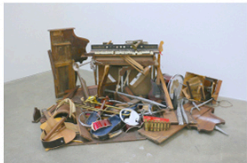
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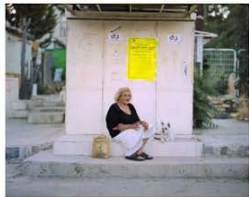
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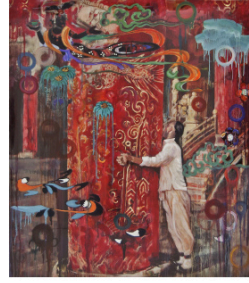
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Yaakov Israel



Hung Liu



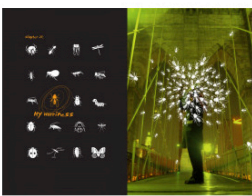
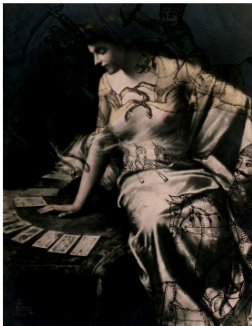
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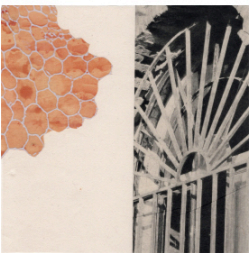
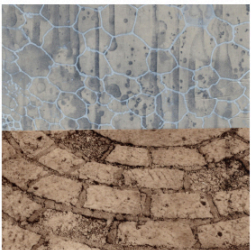
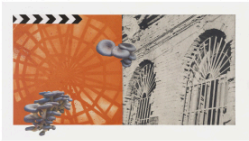
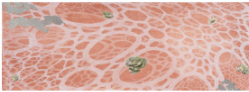
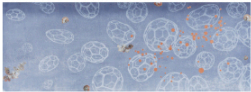
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Tanja Softić



Renée Stout

