

***Katrina Andry: Over There
and Here is Me and Me***



Installation view of *Katrina Andry: Over There and Here is Me and Me*

About this Teaching Resource:

This packet features artwork from the exhibition *Katrina Andry: Over There and Here is Me and Me*, which was featured at the Halsey Contemporary Institute of Art at the College of Charleston from August 23 to December 7, 2019. 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 full-page 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.

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

About the Artist:

A native of New Orleans, LA, Katrina Andry received an M.F.A in printmaking in 2010. She currently lives and works in New Orleans where she maintains a studio. Andry was listed in the September 2012 *Art in Print* magazine as one of the top 50 printmakers. She has recently shown at the Hammonds House Museum (solo), the Pensacola Museum of Art (solo), the Louisiana State University Museum of Art, Baton Rouge, LA (solo), and the New Orleans Museum of Art. She has also been an artist-in-residence at Anchor Graphics in Chicago, Kala Art Institute in Berkeley, CA, and the Joan Mitchell Center in New Orleans.

You can learn more about Katrina Andry and her work [here](#).



About the Exhibition:

The work of Katrina Andry probes the power structures of race-based stereotypes. Using printmaking and installation, she creates visceral images that beckon viewers to examine their own preconceived notions of society. For her exhibition at the Halsey Institute, Andry explores the stereotypes that engender gentrification. As Charleston's neighborhoods are rapidly changing in multifarious ways, this exhibition provides a springboard for community-wide conversations on gentrification.

Andry's work explores the negative effects of stereotypes on the lives of Black people and how these stereotypes give rise to biased laws and ideologies in our society. Her large-scale prints confront the viewer with these derogatory cultural clichés. The figures in the prints represent those who are targeted by racist characterizations. However, Andry specifically uses non-minority figures in this role to illustrate the fact that stereotypes are unjustly perpetuated. Stereotypes are neither based in truth nor innate characteristics of a specific person, instead they are ideas forced onto a group of people as a whole. Portraying entire populations in a negative light, stereotypes confer on the perpetuator an impression of superiority and a greater sense of normalcy.

For her exhibition at the Halsey Institute, Andry created a new body of prints, as well as a new wallpaper installation.

You can see images of the exhibition in the galleries [here](#)!

Questions for Viewing:

Note about Scaffolding: Each example of work presented here is meant to propagate an idea or message (be mass-circulated). This type of art can also depict or recall images or realities that reflect a painful past and present. We encourage you to talk with your students about justice and emotional triggers before starting a conversation with them about the art.

There are images at the end of this packet that can be used for these activities or you can view installation images on the Halsey Institute website, [here](#).

Does Katrina Andry use common symbols in her artwork or create new ones? What are they? What do they mean? Why are they important?

Think about people in your communities (neighborhood, school, borough, and city). Are there issues that your communities face as a whole? What are some issues that people of color are facing today?

Has anyone ever made an assumption about you because of a stereotype that was untrue? How did you react to the situation? Did you feel hurt? Did you express the way you felt to the person who made the assumption?

What is it about yourself and your beliefs that makes you unique from other people, and how might these practices or beliefs be misunderstood or misperceived by another who does not understand your background?

Look carefully at the installation *You and You is Us*. Do you recognize any of the locations? Why do you think Andry chose to include those places?

Take a minute to contemplate each of work of art. Look closely at the prints. What do you notice? What stands out for you?

Now look at the installation. What's going on? What do you see that makes you say that? What else stands out for you? What elements or details do these artworks share? How are they different from each other? How do they "speak" to each other?

Imagine you could move. What would be the features of your dream house or apartment? What would the neighborhood be like? How would it be different (or not) from where you live now? Could your family afford to move? Why or why not?

Suggested Activities:

Quick Write Prompt:

When you hear the word “gentrification” what comes to mind? Does it have a positive or negative meaning, or both? Explain your answer.

Visual Storytelling:

Look at the *Siren Series* on black paper. Determine what story connects the pictures and imagine what happens next. Using pencil and paper, illustrate the next moment and color it in. Try to color the image in the style of the artist’s printmaking to match the mood. Materials: One piece of 4-by-6 drawing paper; pencils; crayons/marker/color pencils.

Speech:

Look at the *Otherness and American Values Series* on white paper. Imagine the conversations between the individuals in each print. Cut out speech bubbles and write in them what you think they might be saying to each other.

Public Art:

Find other examples of art that are specific to the place where they were made (subway mosaics, memorials, public sculpture, etc.). What is the relationship between the art and the space it inhabits? How does it respond to the existing space? How does it change the space? Can you create an installation proposal for a public space? Share your proposal with a family member.

“Just Because”

Begin by brainstorming things people think about you based on how you look or the things you do, especially things that are not necessarily true. Examples: “People think I am a trouble-maker because I skateboard” or “People think I like pink because I am a girl.”

Now, write a poem based on stereotypes of your own identity. Debunk the stereotypes by writing positive traits about yourself. See examples:

Just because I am a girl,
Doesn't mean I like to shop
Doesn't mean I am boy crazy
Doesn't mean I can't play sports
I am a loyal friend.

Just because I am young,
Doesn't mean I am naïve
Doesn't mean I don't care
Doesn't mean I will “understand someday”
I am a human being.

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

Here to Stay by Sara Farizan

Little Leaders: Bold Women in Black History by Vashti Harrison

Attucks! Oscar Robertson and the Basketball Team That Awakened a City by Phillip Hoose

Don't Fail Me Now by Una LaMarche

March: Book One by John Lewis

Darius & Twig by Walter Dean Myers

Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You by Jason Reynolds

Glossary:

Gentrification: The economic and cultural transition that often occurs when wealthier people begin to move into predominantly poor inner-city neighborhoods.

Stereotypes: An idea or belief many people have about a thing or group that is based upon how they look on the outside.

Community: A group of people living or working together in the same area.

Installation: A type of art in which artists create one large work meant to be exhibited in one room or space.

Printmaking: Printmaking is where an artist creates an image using one material, (for instance wood, metal plate, Styrofoam etc.) by etching, or carving lines into that material base.

Additional Readings and Resources:

[Teaching Tolerance](#) is an extensive online resource and blog for educators that includes classroom activities, professional development, and publications supporting diversity, equity, and justice in the classroom.

[Teaching for Change](#) is an online resource for teachers and parents. It includes lessons for teaching social justice topics, professional development, and publications in support of preparing young people to become active global citizens.

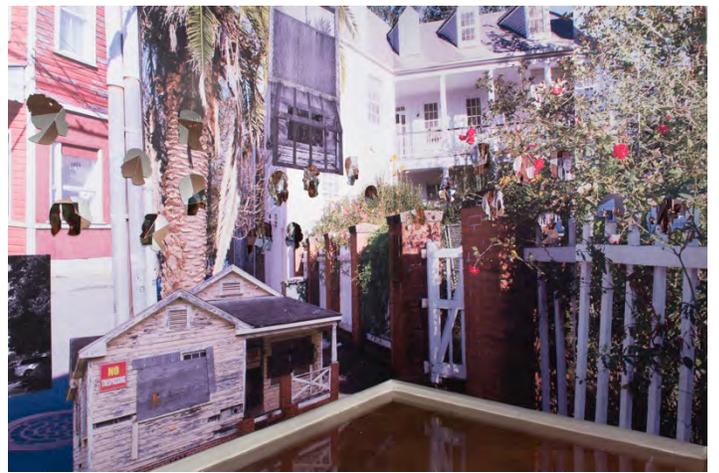
[Rethinking Schools](#) is a nonprofit publisher and advocacy organization dedicated to sustaining and strengthening public education through social justice teaching and education activism. They have a range of online, print, and subscription publications aimed at promoting equity and racial justice in the classroom.

[Morningside Center for Teaching Social Responsibility](#) works with educators to help young people develop the values, personal qualities, and skills they need to thrive and contribute to their communities. Their website has an ongoing list of lesson plans and classroom resources related to addressing current events and social and emotional learning.

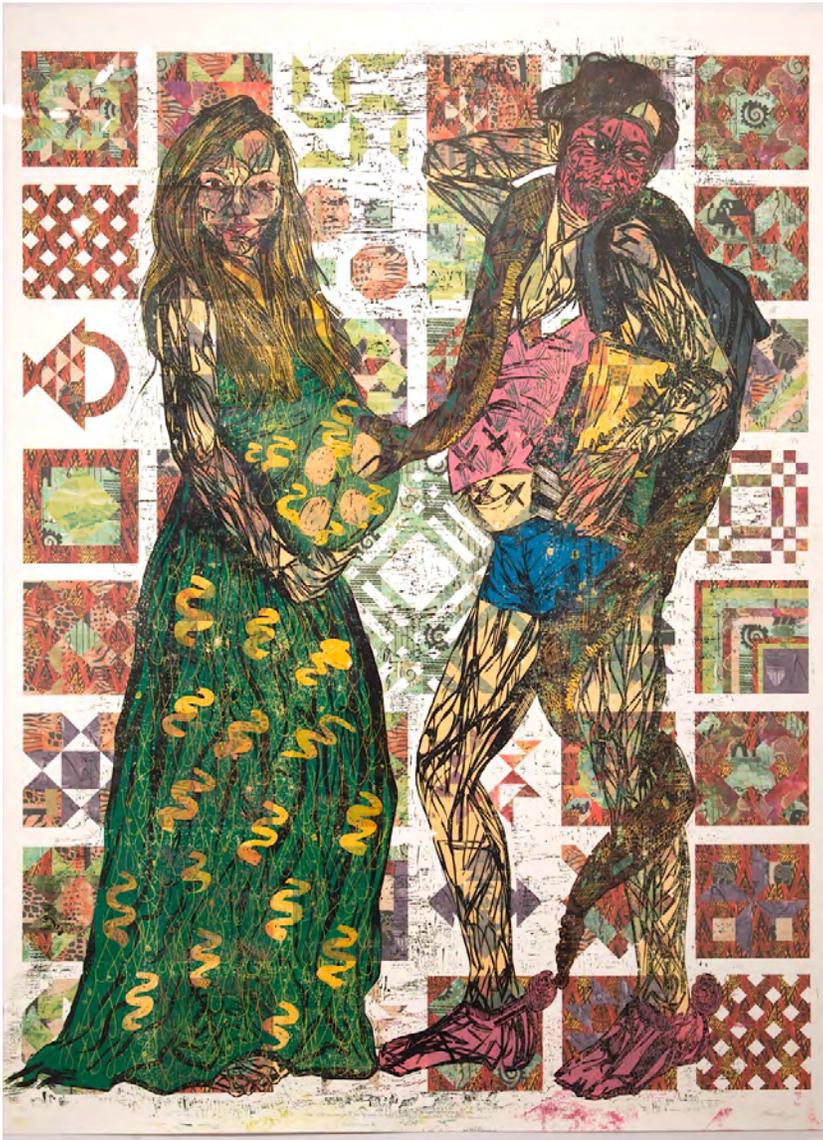
[“What You Need to Know About Gentrification \(With Lesson Plan\)”](#)

[“Whose Renaissance Is It?”](#)

[“Places on the Move: Gentrification in D.C.”](#)



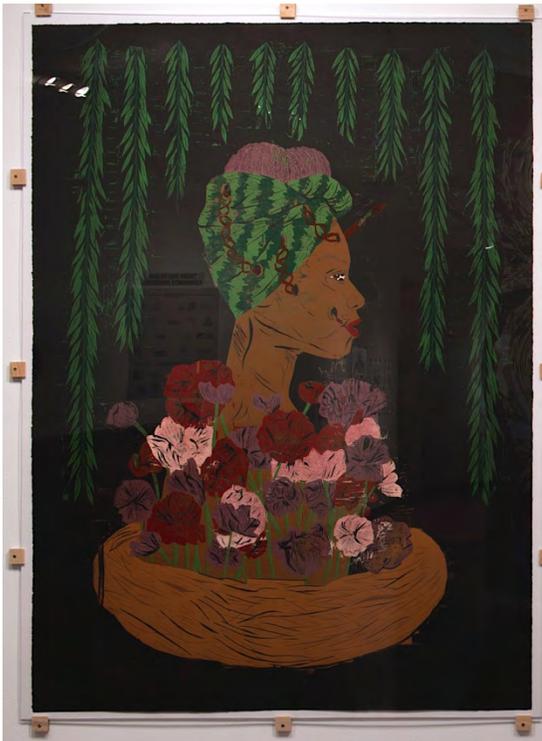
You and You is Us and detail images, 2019. Acrylic mirrors on vinyl wallcovering.



The Unfit Mommy and Her Spawn Will Wreck Your Comfortable Suburban Existence and detail image, 2010. Color reduction woodcut, archival digital background. *Otherness and American Values Series*.



It's About Hard Work, Not Crippling Handouts for the Poor and detail image, 2010. Color reduction woodcut, archival digital background. *Otherness and American Values Series*.



Siren Series

Top left to right:

Artificial American Culture Shock, 2019. Color reduction woodcut.

Mother Medusa Nurtures and Destroys, 2019. Color reduction woodcut.

The Weeping Willows' Contrived Posture, 2019. Color reduction woodcut.

Fabricated Satyr's Distracted Desires, 2019. Color reduction woodcut.



Siren Series

Top to bottom:

Feigned Fear of the Manufactured Chicken Head, 2019. Color reduction woodcut.

Mother Medusa Nurtures and Destroys detail, 2019. Color reduction woodcut.

Fabricated Satyr's Distracted Desires detail, 2019. Color reduction woodcut.