

MICKALENE THOMAS

Mickalene Thomas is a contemporary artist based in Brooklyn, NY. She draws upon a wide range of mediums, including collage (pictured below) to portray women, as well as interior and exterior spaces.



About Mickalene Thomas:

Mickalene Thomas (lives and works in Brooklyn, NY) makes paintings, collages, photography, video, and installations that draw on art history and popular culture to create a contemporary vision of female beauty and power. Blurring the distinction between object and subject, concrete and abstract, real and imaginary, Thomas constructs complex portraits, landscapes, and interiors in order to examine how identity, gender, and sense-of-self are informed by the ways women (and “feminine” spaces) are represented in art. [www.mickalenethomas.com]

Discussion Questions:

- What do you notice about Mickalene's work?
- How would you describe these works of art to someone who has never seen them before?
- What stands out to you? What do you find interesting?
- What do you notice about the way she uses materials?
- What is your opinion about her work? Give a reason to support your opinion.

Create an Artwork Inspired by Mickalene Thomas:

- Using magazine cut-outs, colored construction paper and markers, create an abstract self-portrait. Layer cut-outs on top of each other to create depth and visual movement.
- Create your own abstract landscape using only magazines cut-outs and printed images. Think about a place that is personally meaningful to you and reconstruct this landscape through collage.
- Draw a portrait of a friend or loved one on construction paper using markers. Then, create a backdrop for your portrait on a separate piece of paper using collaged images of various textures, patterns and designs. Cut out your portrait and glue it on top of your backdrop to create a visually compelling collage.