

# Contemporary ART

in the Elementary  
Classroom

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# Presenters:



Marie Elcin



Maureen Hergott



Natovian McLeod



Julia Munar



Emily Sandagata

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# Moderators:



Kristi Oliver



Robb Sandagata



Emma Nordin

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# Session Overview

- **Introduction**
- **Panel Discussion**
  - What was the scariest thing about using contemporary art in your classroom?
  - How has contemporary art changed or impacted your teaching practice?
  - What methods have you used to successfully introduce contemporary art to your students?
  - Did you face any challenges when adding contemporary art to your curriculum?
  - How do I get started working with contemporary art in my classroom?
- **Question and Answer**
- **Art21**
- **Panelists share their favorite contemporary artists**

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# What was the scariest thing about using contemporary art in your classroom?



Mickalene Thomas, *Maya #7*, 2015



Tim Hawkinson, *Emoter*, 2002



Janine Antoni, *Lick and Lather*, 1993

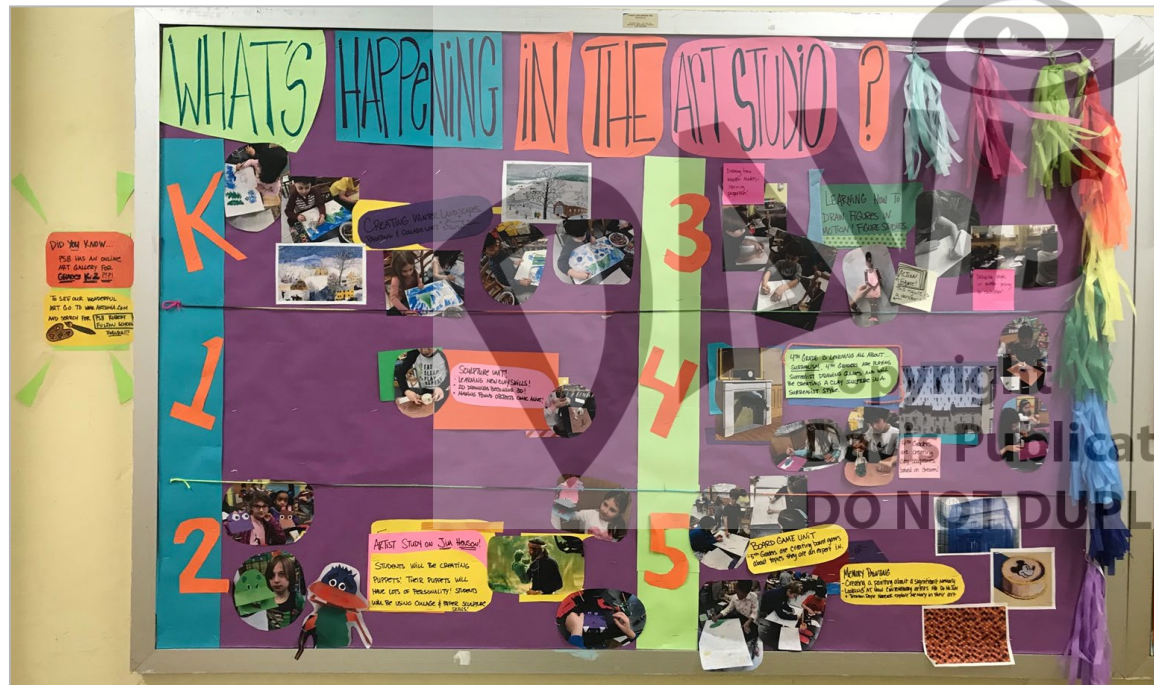
# What was the scariest thing about using contemporary art in your classroom?



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# How can you share the THINKING and PROCESS happening in the art studio?

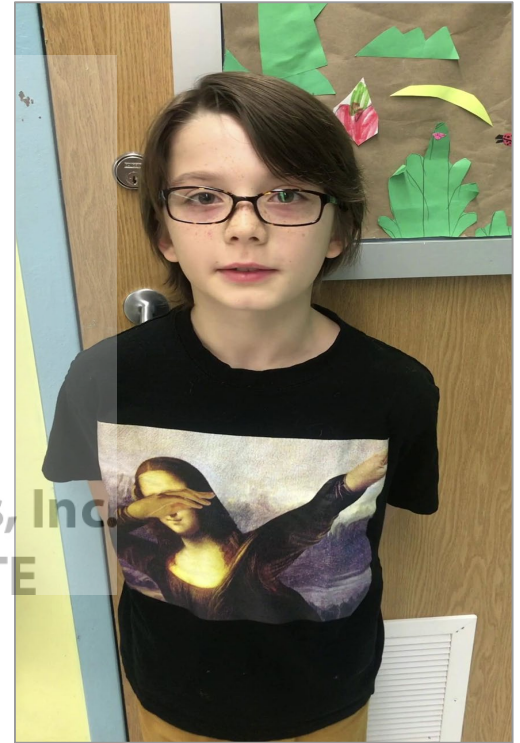


# Why do you like learning about contemporary art?

*“ It allows you to think in many different ways... ‘cause sometimes people just have this one perspective of art and it allows them to grow from that perspective and change their art and make it stronger”*

— Julian, Age 10

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**Julia Munar**



# How has contemporary art changed or impacted your teaching practice?



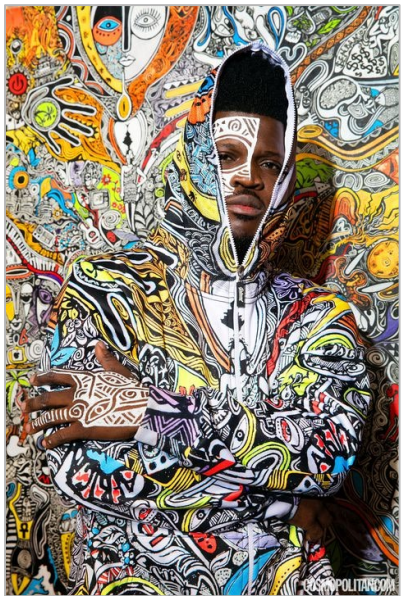
*A Veil of Bitter Songs, and A Study of a Black Man's Soul, Ronald Jackson*



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**Natovian McLeod**

# How has contemporary art changed or impacted your teaching practice?



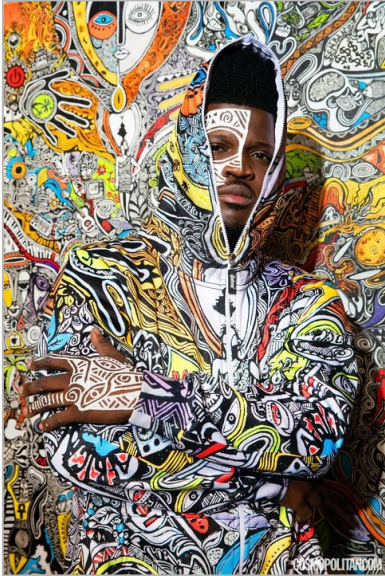
Laolu Senbanjo



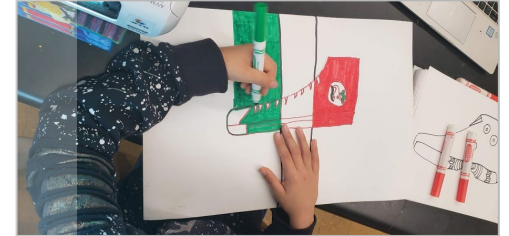
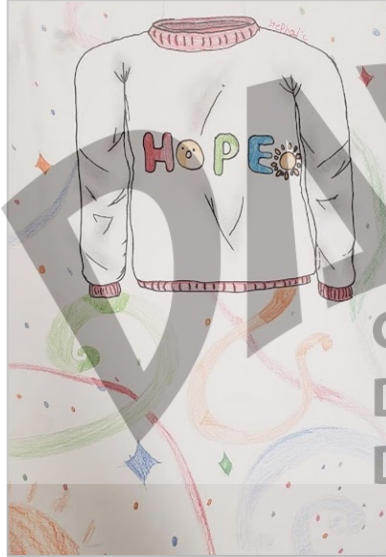
Natovian McLeod



# How has contemporary art changed or impacted your teaching practice?



Laolu Senbanjo



Natovian McLeod

# How has contemporary art changed or impacted your teaching practice?





# What methods have you used to successfully introduce contemporary art to your students?



Kay Healy "Lost and Found", invite curiosity



Cindy Sherman Clown series, surprise students!



Isaiah Zagar mosaic murals, from students' environment



Roberto Lugo "Big Pun and I", connect past and present

# What methods have you used to successfully introduce contemporary art to your students?



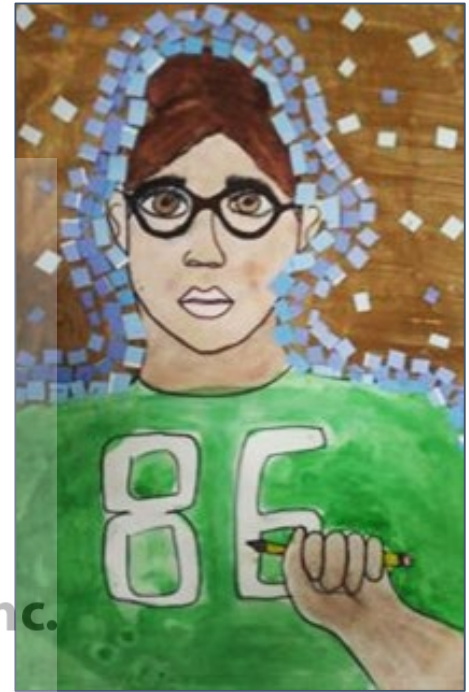
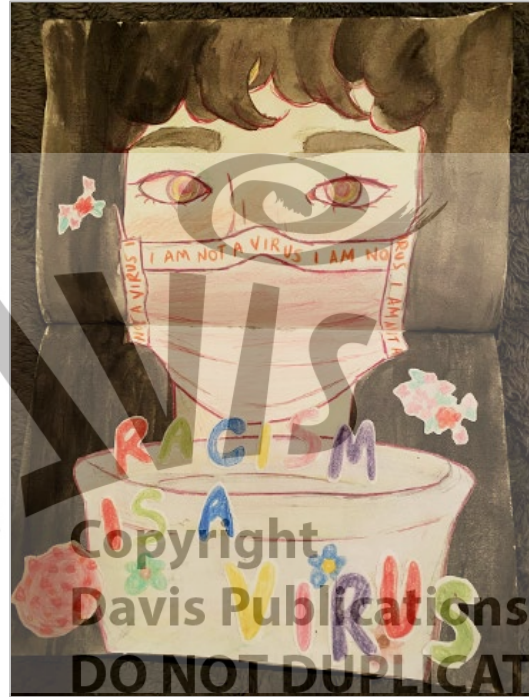
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# What methods have you used to successfully introduce contemporary art to your students?



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Students need to see themselves and the world they live in reflected in the art they see in school. They seek examples of how to live and work as they define their own sense of self, their beliefs, and goals for their lives.

**Marie Elcin**



# Did you face any challenges when adding contemporary art to your curriculum?



Challenge #1:

a curriculum absent of CA



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# Did you face any challenges when adding contemporary art to your curriculum?

**Challenge #2:**

discussions around CA require time

real world connections /social issues  
unconventional materials

**IDENTITY**

# Did you face any challenges when adding contemporary art to your curriculum?



## Challenge #3:

teaching with CA can mean that you need to consider:

process, c. engagement, and/or reimaging of spaces

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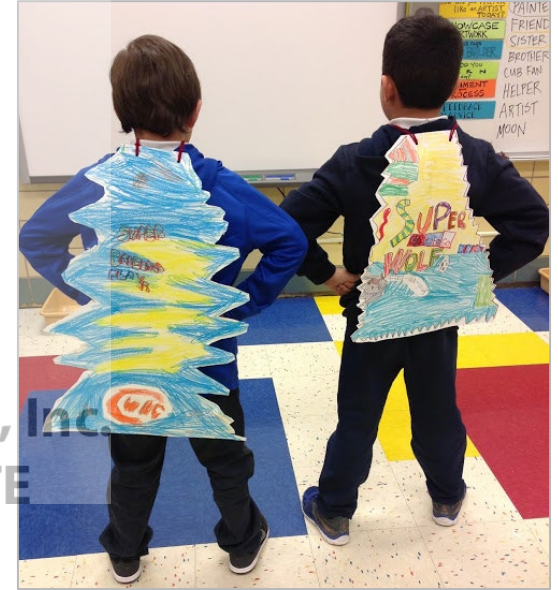
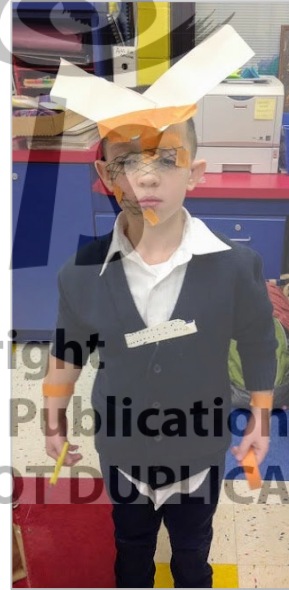


# How do I get started working with contemporary art in my classroom?





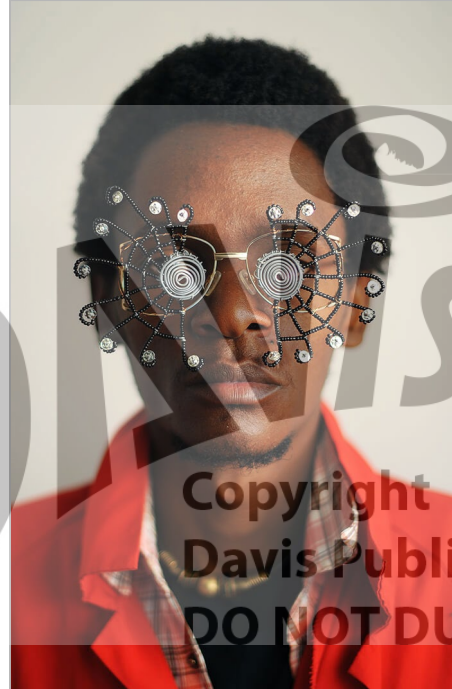
# You know your students best. You know you best.



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Creative Growth Art Center Fashion Show

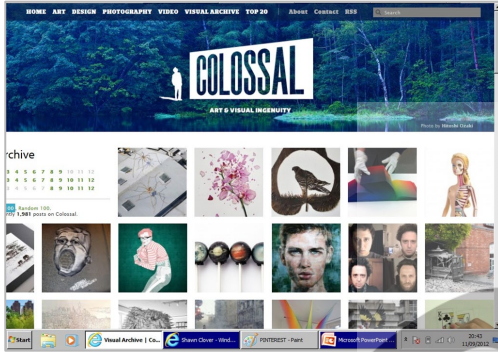


Cyrus Kabiru, Caribbean Sun, 2012

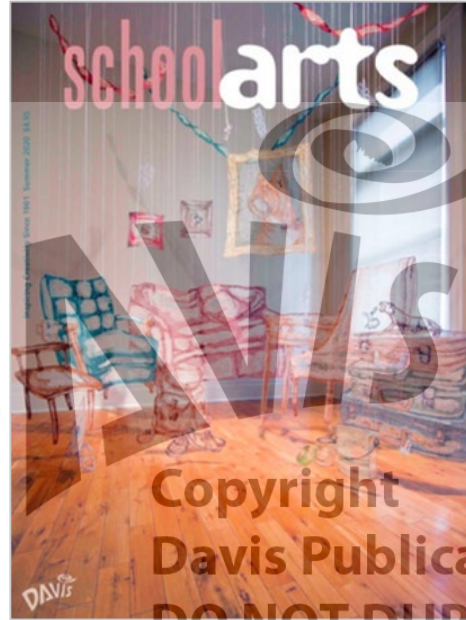


Nick Cave performing a *Soundsuit*, 2015

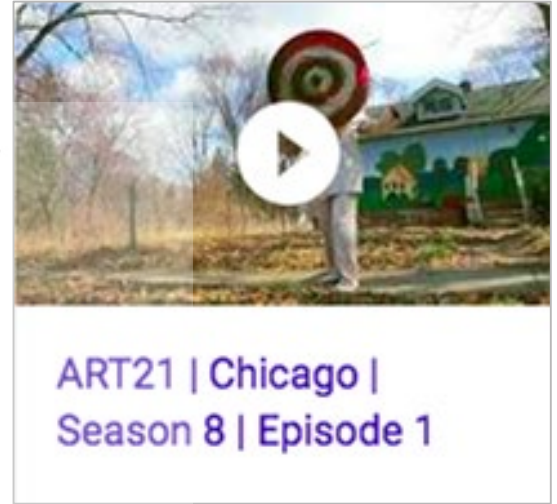
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Maureen Hergott



# Questions for panel?

**Type your questions in the chat box  
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# Art 21

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- Bring Art21 professional development to your school
- Read articles written by fellow educators
- Sign up for the Art21 Education Newsletter

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art21.org/jordancasteel

### Jordan Casteel

**ABOUT**

**Born**  
1989 (Denver, Colorado)

**Education**  
BA, Agnes Scott College  
MFA, Yale University

**Lives and Works**  
New York City

**About the Artist**  
Long committed to social justice, Casteel was working as a teacher in Colorado and painting in the evenings when she realized that she needed to devote herself more seriously to her art practice. After completing her MFA at Yale University, Casteel moved to New York for a residency at The Studio Museum of Harlem, where she became inspired to address issues of Black masculinity. Casteel began painting portraits of friends, family members, and classmates, posed in intimate settings and posed to look directly at the viewer. The effect is at once tender and powerful, forcing viewers to contend with their preconceived notions of masculinity and race. Through Casteel's larger-than-life paintings, this community of diverse men and women is represented on the walls of museums globally.

**Media and Materials**  
painting  
photography

**Key Words and Ideas**  
community  
social justice  
representation  
identity  
value  
symbolism  
history  
gaze  
vulnerability  
voice

**Related Artists**  
Elle Perez  
Kara Walker  
Carrie Mae Weems  
Fred Wilson  
Zanele Muholi  
Collier Schorr  
Stephanie Syjuco  
Jack Whitten  
Kerry James Marshall  
Krzysztof Wodiczko

“I've always had an inclination towards seeing people who might be easily unseen.” —Jordan Casteel

Art21 | Educators' Guide | Jordan Casteel

Follow Art21 on social media for the most current updates!

# Marie recommends...



**Roberto Lugo:**  
combining craft and pop culture



**Barbara Kruger:** big questions



**Jordan Casteel:** seeing people



**Swoon:** story



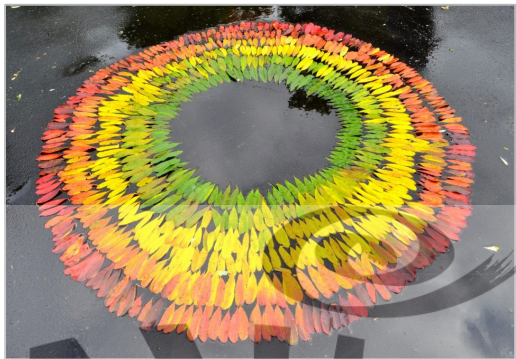
**Oliver Herring:** Task Party for play



# Maureen recommends...



**Christoph Niemann:**  
drawing with humor



**Andy Goldsworthy:**  
working with nature



**Shantell Martin:**  
finding your artistic style



**Lucy Sparrow:**  
creating collections



**Mark Bradford:**  
working with paper

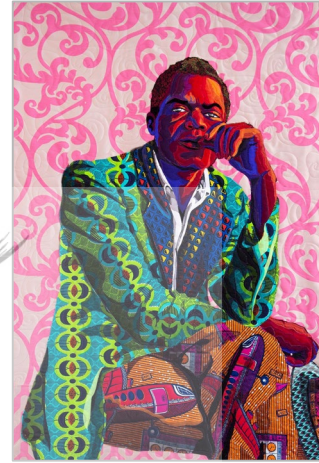
# Natovian recommends...



Hassan Hajjaj



Devin Allen



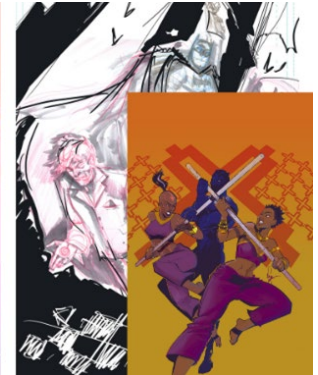
Bisa Butler



Lucia Hierro

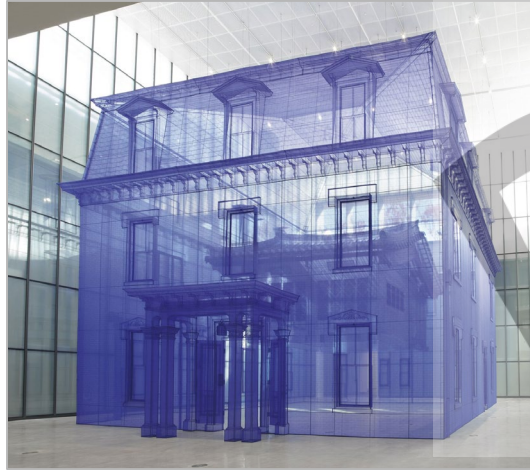


Afua Richardson





# Julia recommends...



**Do Ho Suh:** exploring home



**Sarah Sze:**  
temporary sculptures



**Mark Dion:**  
exploring  
collections



**Olafur Eliasson:**  
light, shadow



**Alex Da Corte:** exploring make-believe



# Emily recommends...



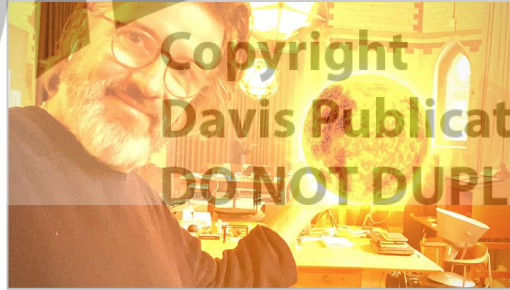
**Kerry James Marshall:**  
place, memory, community



**JooYoung Choi:**  
fantasy, play



**El Anatsui:**  
reuse, recycle



**Olafur Eliasson:**  
light, shadow



**Elizabeth Murray:**  
play, emotion