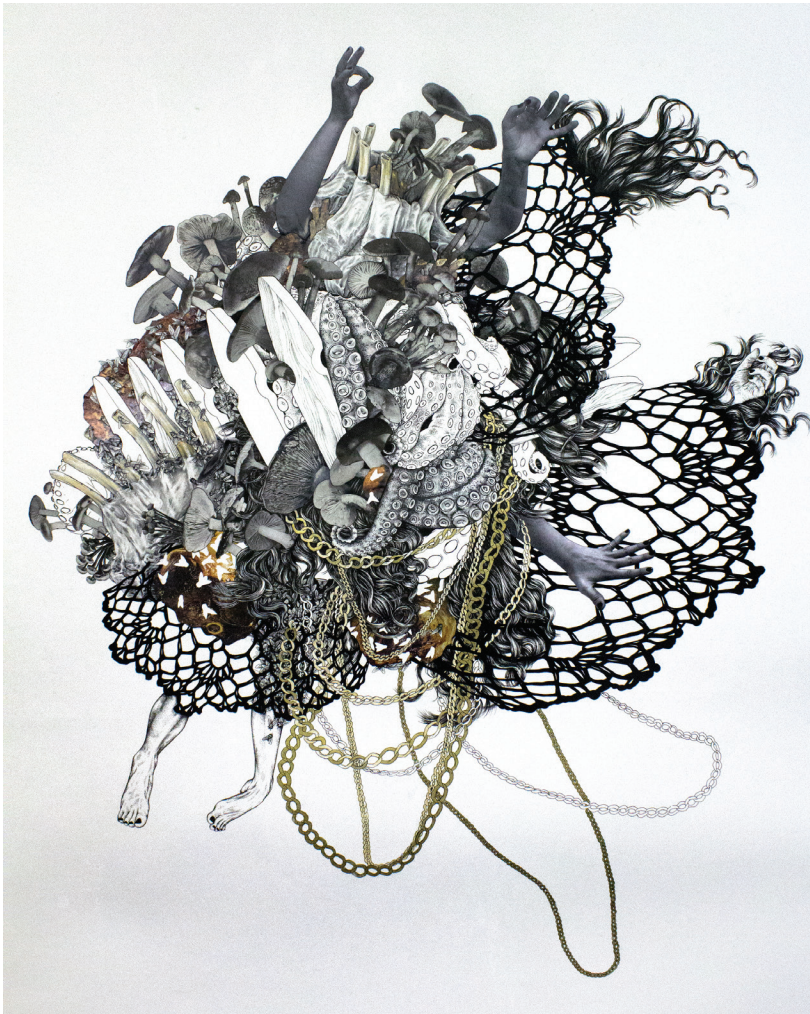


## 3.6 How Can Art Confront Us with the Unexpected?

### Lesson Objectives

- explore juxtaposition as a means for making social commentary
- create a collaborative artwork that displays juxtaposition

Juxtaposition occurs when at least two different or contrasting elements, images, or objects are brought together. Artist Morgan Rosskopf uses juxtaposition in an unexpected way (Fig. 3-31). She clusters and entangles items, including human and non-human elements. Even though the images are still, the viewer gets a sense of movement or action through the chaotic arrangement of these seemingly unrelated and partial objects. Rosskopf states that these works are about relationships and vulnerability. They might be representations of the complex emotions we feel when trying to make meaningful connections with other people.



### Activity: Collaborate

For this activity you will work with two of your classmates.

- Spend a few minutes brainstorming responses to the question: When have you been surprised by a work of art?
- Gather items that you have with you in your pockets or backpacks. What ideas do these items represent? What are they for? How do they affect your life every day?
- From your group's collection, choose at least two items to include in a digital photograph. How can you juxtapose these objects in a thought-provoking way?
- Take a digital photograph of your item(s).
- Edit your photo to incorporate elements and principles, while maintaining juxtaposition. Use one of the following strategies or create your own.
  - Use the principle of balance or proportion (for example, dark and light, big and small).
  - Remove something from the image that is expected to be there.
  - Add text to provoke specific thoughts about the image.
- Present your group's exploration in juxtaposition to your class. Explain the choices you made to create it.

**3-31** How many different items can you identify in this work? Which seem to belong together, and which do not?

Morgan Rosskopf, *Untitled (9 Chainz)*, 2015. Mixed media and collage on Stonehenge, 50" x 60" (127 x 152.4 cm). Courtesy of Morgan Rosskopf.