

MILWAUKEE ART MUSEUM



# 30 AMERICANS

family guide

JUNE 14-SEPT 8, 2013

# WHAT IS 30 Americans?

30 Americans is a collection of CONTEMPORARY art by African American artists. WHAT IS contemporary art? Art of today! These artists create art in many different ways. You will see art made of paint, rocks, sweaters, neon lights, carpet, and MORE! For artists today, ANYTHING can be used to make art! These artists also create art for many different reasons: to explore questions about race, history, stereotypes, fashion, art of the past, and MORE. The artists do have one thing in common. They all create art that makes us THINK!



*The Family Guide is sponsored by Four-Four Foundation and an Anonymous Donor.*

*30 Americans is organized by the Rubell Family Collection, Miami.*

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ABOVE Left to right: Rashid Johnson, Nick Cave, Kalup Linzy, Jeff Sonhouse, Lorna Simpson, Carrie Mae Weems, Barkley L. Hendricks, Hank Willis Thomas (front row), Xaviera Simmons, Purvis Young, John Bankston, Nina Chanel Abney, Henry Taylor, Mickalene Thomas (front row), Kerry James Marshall and Shinique Smith. Photo by Kwaku Alston.

# 1 Look aROUND!



In the first gallery, look for a ROUND painting. This is *Untitled* by Purvis Young. This artist painted how he felt about the city around him. He painted on things he found—cardboard, pieces of wood, refrigerator doors, and folders.

## Fun Fact:

Purvis Young often put horses in his paintings. For him, horses = freedom.

MAKE a quick sketch of this painting in the space below.



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# The Power of THREE!

In this same gallery, find *Triple Portrait of Charles I* by Kehinde Wiley.

This artist paints portraits of men inspired by artworks from the past. The men look through art history books and choose a pose from a painting. Wiley takes their picture in that pose and paints from the photograph. He adds rich patterns and places the completed paintings in fancy gold frames. For this work, Wiley looked to Sir Anthony van Dyck's *Charles I in Three Positions*, from 1635. →



### Compare and Contrast!

How are the paintings on these two pages alike?

How are they different?

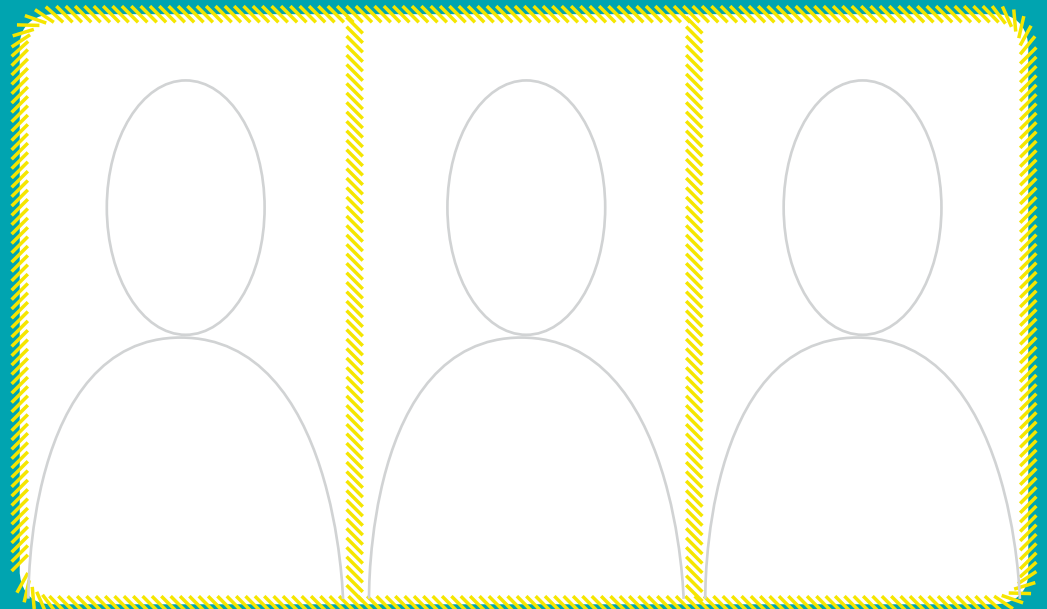
### Fun Fact:

A painting made up of three separate pictures is called a "triptych" (pronounced TRIP-tik).



Sir Anthony van Dyck, *Charles I (1600–49) in Three Positions*, 1635. Royal Collection Trust / © Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II 2013.

### Make your OWN triptych!





### Fun Fact:

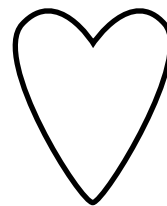
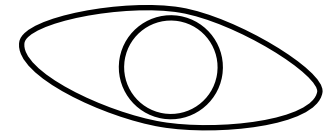
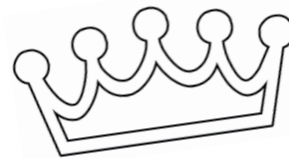
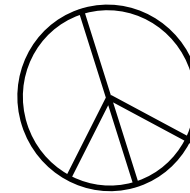
Basquiat loved jazz music and used a bird in this painting to symbolize one of his favorite jazz musicians, Charlie "Bird" Parker.

## 3 I spy SYMBOLS!

Exit this gallery at the left of Kehinde Wiley's picture. Walk straight ahead to find *Bird on Money* by Jean-Michel Basquiat. This artist made paintings on canvas, like this picture, as well as on walls and trains. He used symbols and words that were important to him.

Below are some of Basquiat's symbols.

Circle below the ones you can find in this painting!



### Fun Fact:

Basquiat was friends with Andy Warhol. They liked looking at each other's artwork, and even worked on a set of paintings together.



Andy Warhol, *Campbell's Soup*, 1965. Gift of Mrs. Harry Lynde Bradley. Photo by Efraim Lev-er. © The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, Inc. / Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York.



## 4 Creative COLLAGE!

In this same gallery, find *Non je ne regrette rien* by Wangechi Mutu. This artist makes mixed-media collage and is inspired by the human body. To make her art, she glues together cloth, photos, plastic, and more!

**What do the shapes in this work remind you of?**

**What does the title mean?**

**Answer:** "Non je ne regrette rien" is French for "I do not regret anything."

ABOVE Wangechi Mutu, *Non je ne regrette rien*, 2007 (detail). Image courtesy Rubell Family Collection, Miami. Photo by Chi Lam.  
RIGHT Shinique Smith, *Crone-Huntress*, 2007 (detail). Image courtesy Rubell Family Collection, Miami. Photo by Chi Lam.

## 5 FIND the FOUND objects

Exit this gallery to the right of Basquiat's painting, and walk towards a large piece of carpet on the wall. When you reach it, turn left into the next gallery, and then turn right. Look for a sculpture built on top of a rug. This is *Crone-Huntress* by Shinique Smith.

**Look carefully at this sculpture.  
What is it made of?**

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**Where did she get these things?**

All over! Some things she found, others she owned or they belonged to her friends and family.



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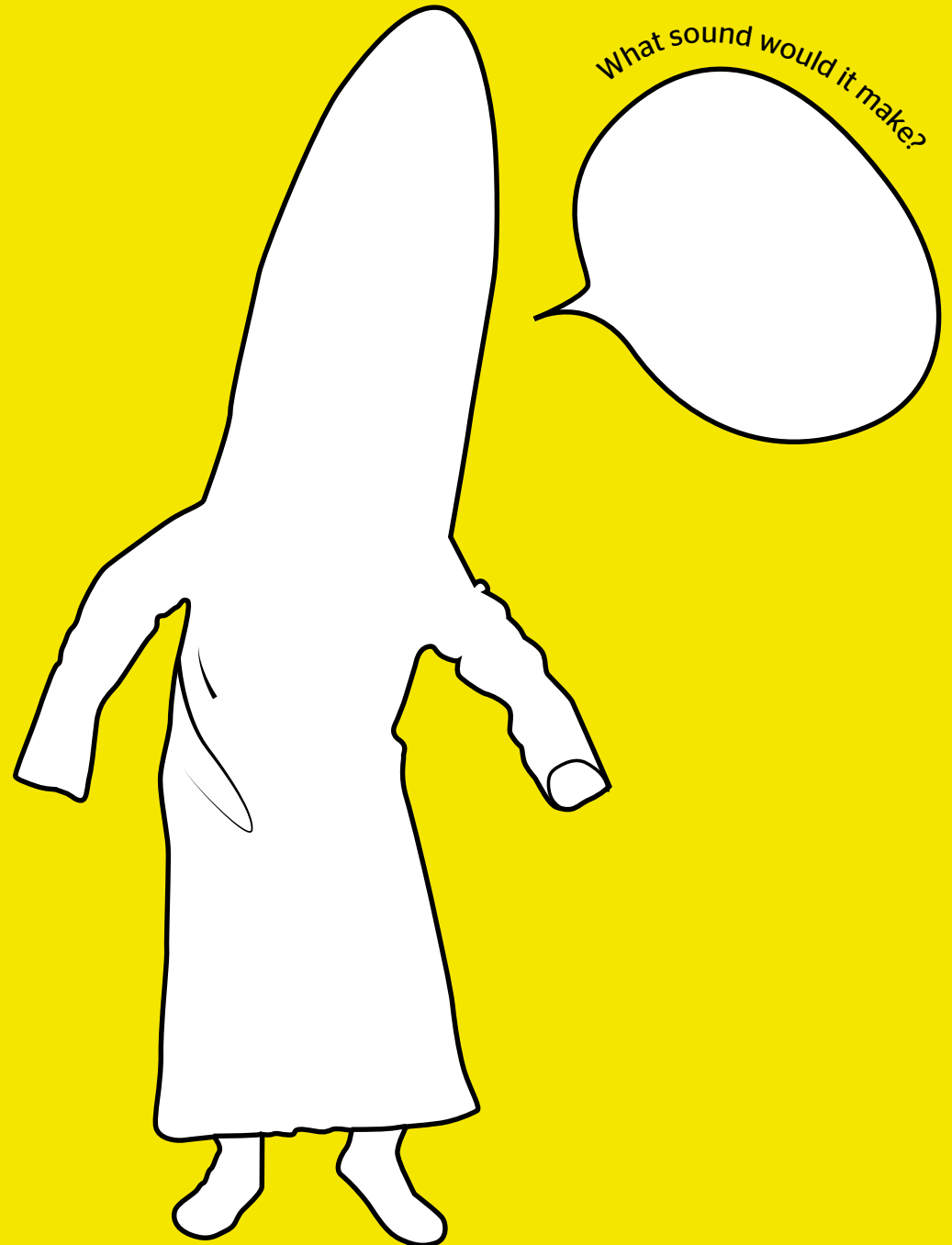
## Art you can get into!

Walk towards a tall, brightly patterned sculpture that looks like it is standing on legs and feet. This is a *Soundsuit* by Nick Cave. He has made MANY different versions of Soundsuits, sewn together with different found objects. Soundsuits are sculptures, but they are also made to be worn while dancing.

**What do you think it would feel like to wear this Soundsuit?**



**What would YOUR Soundsuit look like?  
Sketch it in the space below!**



**Check out YouTube for Nick Cave Soundsuit videos!**



Kerry James Marshall, *Untitled*, 1998–99 (detail). Image courtesy Rubell Family Collection, Miami. Photo by Chi Lam.

## 7 What's the Story?

Walk straight ahead to find *Untitled* by Kerry James Marshall. People in his pictures help tell a story.

**What is going on in this picture?**

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### How is it made?

**This artwork is a type of print called a woodcut. It is kind of like a giant stamp!**

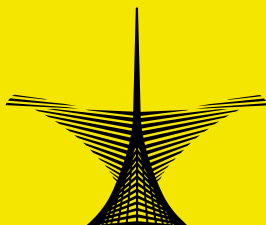
To make a woodcut, the artist makes a drawing on a flat piece of wood, and then carves away the wood around the lines of the drawing. Ink is rolled onto the raised surface of the wood, and paper is pressed against it, transferring the ink to the paper and making a print of the drawing.





# Ready for more family fun?

Check in with the staff person at the ArtPack Station on the Main Level, who can point you to spaces and activities just for families in the Museum.



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