

Teacher Guide

Shapeshifters

March 2–June 16, 2019



Maria Andrea Tamez Villarreal. *Topography* (detail), 2018. Inkjet print. Courtesy the artist.

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EXHIBITION OVERVIEW

- *Shapeshifters* is a group exhibition featuring work by over 40 Houston-area teen artists and organized by CAMH's Teen Council.
- The exhibition includes painting, sculpture, video, photography, textile, and digital media, including an interactive website.
- *Shapeshifters* is the 11th biennial youth art exhibition organized by CAMH's Teen Council.
- Drawing from an open call, the Teen Council received over 700 submissions and chose over 80 pieces to be in the exhibition as they best responded to the theme.
- The exhibition is divided into five sections: Identity, Documentation, Generation, External Shapes, and Internal Shapes.

Key Questions

- What forms you and/or your generation?
- How do you define your space?
- Can you change shapes?
- What issues are important to you and inspire you creatively?
- How do artists share their identity through their work?
- How are artists inspired by their environment?

Curriculum Connections

Visual Art | One theme in the exhibition is “external shapes.” The artists ask the viewer to slow down and take in the shape of their environment from a variety of new angles and perspectives. Choose a place that you are very familiar with—your bedroom, a classroom, a building that you pass on your way to school—and document it through a



DeCarté May. *The line is here to protect the art, not to protect you* (detail), 2018. Silver gelatin print. Courtesy the artist.

photograph, drawing, painting, or sculpture from a new perspective or viewpoint.

Language Arts | One theme in the exhibition is “generation.” Consider how the environment and culture have changed in the recent past to impact the shape of our society. Write about an object from the past or from your childhood that is not as common today. What memories and feelings does this object evoke?

Current Events | Several works in the exhibition including *Thin White Sheets* (2018) by Mina Silva and the video work *LGBTQ* (2018) by Urvashi Deshpande and Melanie I. Menkiti deal directly with current events including mass shootings and queer issues. What current events strongly resonate with you? What in the news do you have questions about? Are there current events that feel personal and impact you directly? Create something (a video, podcast, sound piece, poem, photograph, etc.) in response to this issue.



Asa Forman. *At Last (to Etta James who sang the Blues)*, 2018. Neon bulb and single-channel audio, 3:04 minutes. Courtesy the artist.