Teacher Guide

Slowed and Thowed: Records of the City Through Mutated Lenses
March 6–June 7, 2020

Exhibition Overview

- *Slowed and Throwed* is a two-part interdisciplinary exhibition orbiting around the legacy of the late Houston legend DJ Screw.

- DJ Screw produced his “chopped and screwed” technique—reducing pitch, slowing tempo, distorting input, and chopping lyrics to produce new meanings—by using two turntables to slow down and layer hip hop tempos.

- The exhibition features unconventional photography and new media created by strategies paralleling the musical methods of the innovative DJ. In their photo-adjacent practices the visual artists appropriate, mash-up, collage, and mutate photographic inputs, in addition to slowing time.

- All of the participating artists in *Slowed and Throwed* are Houston-affiliated—either from or at some point based in the city.

- The physical and conceptual core of the exhibition are the collection of DJ Screw archival materials from the University of Houston. They will be displayed in a gallery built to mirror the edifice of the original Screwed Up Records & Tapes on Houston’s Cullen Boulevard.

Key Questions

- How have visual artists been inspired by music? What examples can you find through history?

- How have visual artists and musicians worked together to create new work?

- What other places are defined by a specific musical genre?

- How can a specific place influence an artwork? What are some examples of works inspired by a city?
Curriculum Connections

**Visual Art** | Choose a favorite song or musician. Inspired by either their lyrics, technique, or life—create a visual artwork.

**Music** | How have certain genres of music come to be associated with different cities or regions? Choose a region and a matching genre of music. Do some research on the history of the association. Who are their key musical figures?

**History** | Research a contemporary figure that has had a large influence in your city. This could be an artistic, political, or historical impact. Why did you choose this person? Are they well-known beyond your city? How have they made a difference? Share this information with your classmates and learn about other local figures.