

Find & Craft Stories

Use these activities to think and make in Aminah-inspired ways, with art by anyone.





Connecting Our Stories

Observe: Find an artwork that speaks to you and look at the work silently (without reading the label!) for 30 seconds. Hint: To look more deeply “zoom-in” on just one section like you are looking through a telescope, then work your way around clockwise. Then “zoom-out” and look at the work as a whole.

Describe: Share your observations with the other people you are visiting with.

Interpret: If this is the middle of a story, what do you think might be going on? What do you notice that makes you think so?

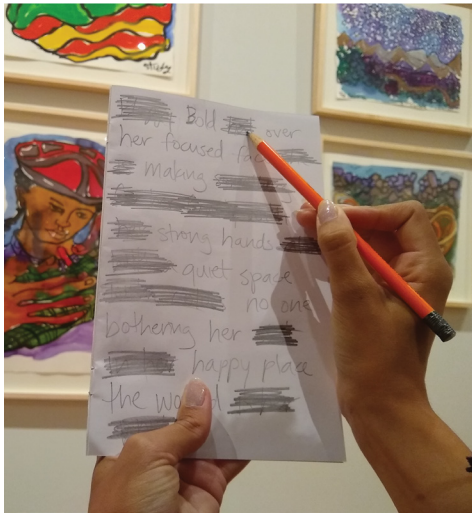
Personal Connection: Robinson believed that her work was never completed because every viewer brings their own story to her art. What personal story do you have that connects to, or builds on, the story you think this artwork is telling?

At home extension: Try this same activity using an image from a book or magazine, an old photo album, or an image online (hint: Search online for *The New York Times* ‘What’s going on in this picture’ to find a collection of free, interesting photos without their captions)



Creative Storytelling

Aminah loved telling the stories of people through words and images, often in handmade books.



In galleries: Find a portrait (an artwork depicting a person). Notice details like facial expression, clothing, body language, the environment around them. Use these details to imagine a fictional story of this person's life. Use a pencil and paper to capture your ideas through freewriting – don't edit or worry about spelling or even whether it would make sense to someone other than you. Just fill the page with whatever story comes to mind for you. Now, use your pencil to scratch out all but the most interesting words, creating a blackout poem.

At home extension: Interview an elder (relative, neighbor) and ask them “What is a story you wish you could share with others?” Use words and images to interpret that story and create a book. Tip: Artists make books in so many shapes, sizes, and formats. Play around with scrap paper and needle and thread to create new ways of binding a book, or find tutorials online for inspiration and guidance.

Transformative play

Many artists transform everyday objects into art materials. For instance, Robinson is known for incorporating buttons, neckties, music box mechanisms, and much more into her creations.

Visit the Center for Creativity and find a participatory Connector (a place with materials to practice your own creativity.) Find a creation you like that was made and left by another visitor. Take it and transform it into something new, by adding onto it using supplies from another Connector station. Photograph your remix and share it on social media with **#myCMA**.

***At home extension:** Find a disused object that intrigues you. This could be a pinecone, a broken piece of jewelry, a scrap of fabric, something out of the junk drawer - anything. Glue or tape the object to a piece of paper and draw (or doodle) around it, or assemble it with other objects to create a collage or sculpture.*

This resource was developed with support from:

BATTELLE



Image credit: Aminah Brenda Lynn Robinson, *Brushes* (paint brush holder), date unknown, hogmawg and found objects, Estate of the Artist

Front: Aminah Brenda Lynn Robinson, *Come In*, 1999, cloth and thread, Estate of the Artist