

“Where We Land” Lachell Workman, 2017



Where We Land explores violence against people of color in our society. Technology has made it so that violence in communities of color can be documented and shared more than ever before. Sadly, people’s reactions to these stories reveal a terrible divide in our culture. Some people see the violence as a true, systemic problem that terrorizes and ruins communities, but other people justify the violence and minimize its horrible consequences. The art in this exhibition comments on the effects of racism on people and their environments. Workman’s art in this exhibition looks at the concept of memorial t-shirts and their cultural significance.

“...who are the people and events that matter enough to be publicly memorialized?”

Meet the Artist!

Lachell Workman (Bridgeport, CT) earned a BFA from The University of Connecticut and an MFA from SUNY at Purchase College. Workman was awarded residencies at Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, the Shakenden Project at Storm King Art Center, Ox-Bow, and the Lower East Side Printshop in New York. She has exhibited at Yale University’s Greene Gallery, Bronx Art Space, Palais de Tokyo in Paris, and Hudson Valley Center for Contemporary Art in Peekskill, NY.



Memorial T-shirt

Lachell Workman's art explores the concept of t-shirts as a public memorial for someone who has passed. This activity invites you to explore the design and purpose of these shirts.

<https://www.u-ca.org/exhibition/where-we-land>

Essential Questions:

What did this person look like? What was their name? When did they pass away?

What were some special things about this person? Their favorite color, favorite things, favorite sayings, etc?

What imagery and symbols do you find comforting for remembering this person? Imagery could include religious symbols like angel wings and doves, or could be more specific like the person's signature or favorite emoji.

Is there anything about the way in which they passed that could be relevant for the design? Examples might include the word "Justice" for someone who passed under unfair, unfortunate circumstances, or maybe a specific disease awareness ribbon for someone who passed of an illness.



1. Think of a person you'd like to memorialize. It could be someone you know, or someone in history.
2. Answer the essential questions about this person. You may need to do some research, or ask family or friends for help in gathering information.
3. Use your answers to the essential questions to design a t-shirt for this person. Draw it out using whatever tools you like.
4. Share your drawings with family and friends and talk about the person you've created the memorial for. Explain your choices and ask them about their feelings about your design. You can discuss whether or not you would like to wear your design and how that might make you feel.