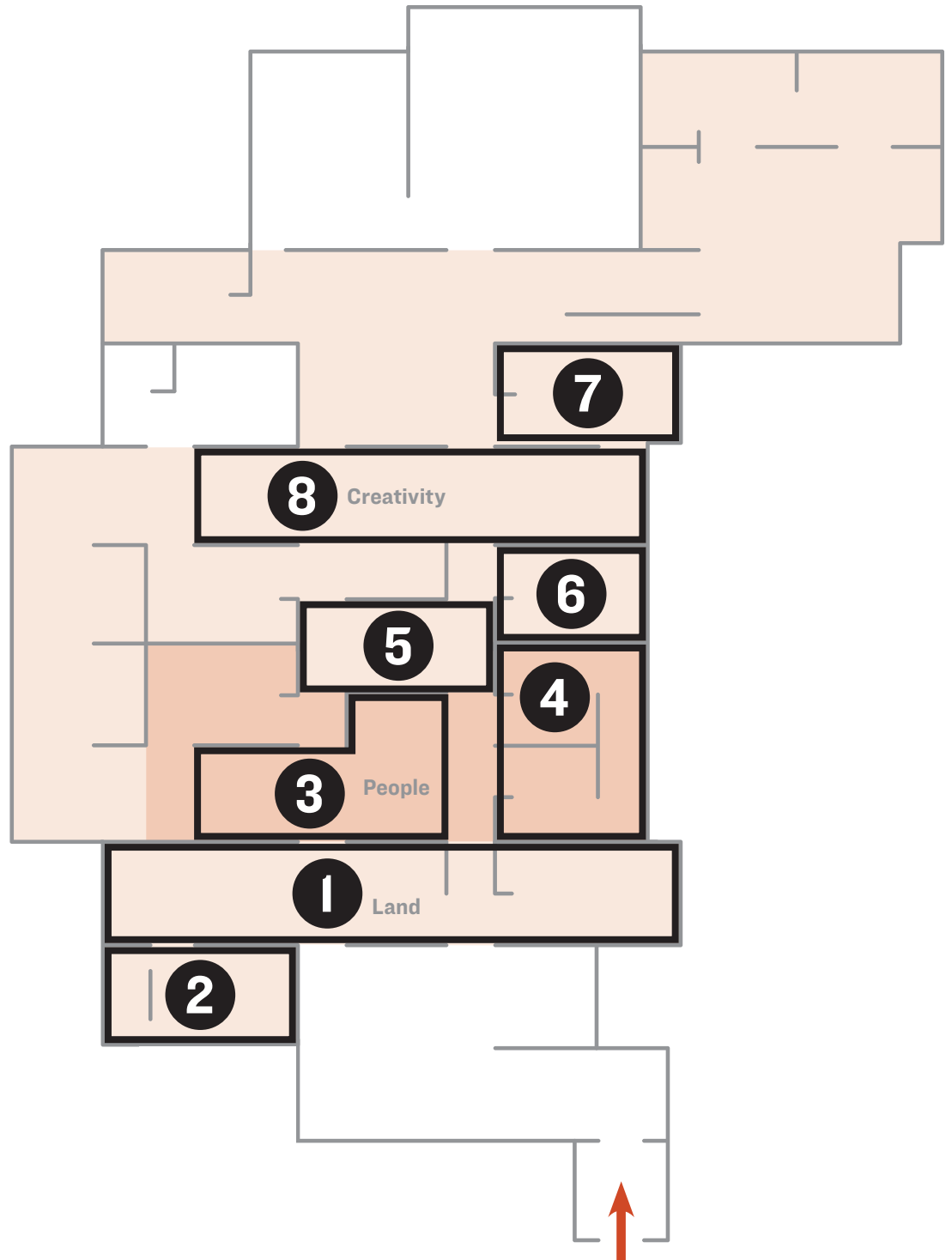


GRADES 9–12

GALLERY OF CALIFORNIA ART

Welcome to the Oakland Museum of California's Gallery of California Art! What can you discover with your group?

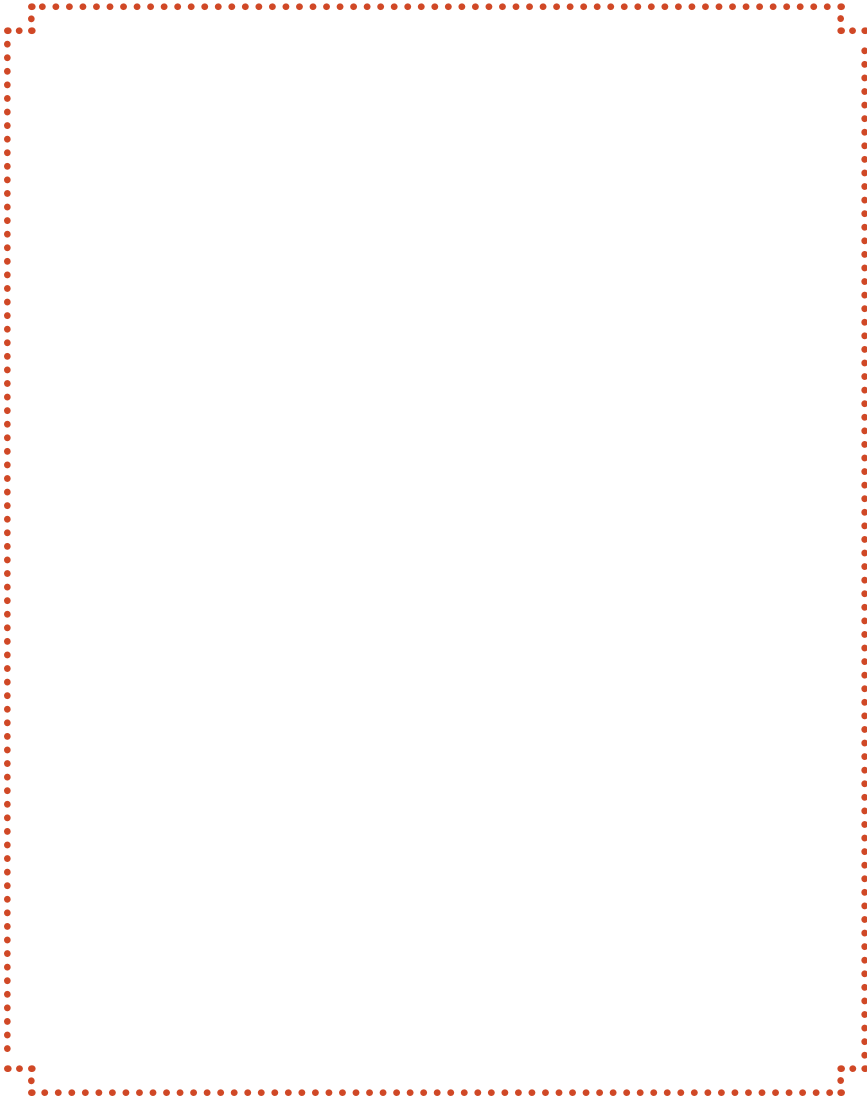
- 1 CALIFORNIA LAND
- 2 ART OF THE GOLD RUSH
- 3 ASSEMBLING IDENTITY AND THE PORTRAIT WALL
- 4 DOROTHEA LANGE
- 5 HUNG LIU
- 6 SELF-TAUGHT ARTISTS
- 7 RADICAL ACTS
- 8 CREATIVE CALIFORNIA



1

CALIFORNIA LAND

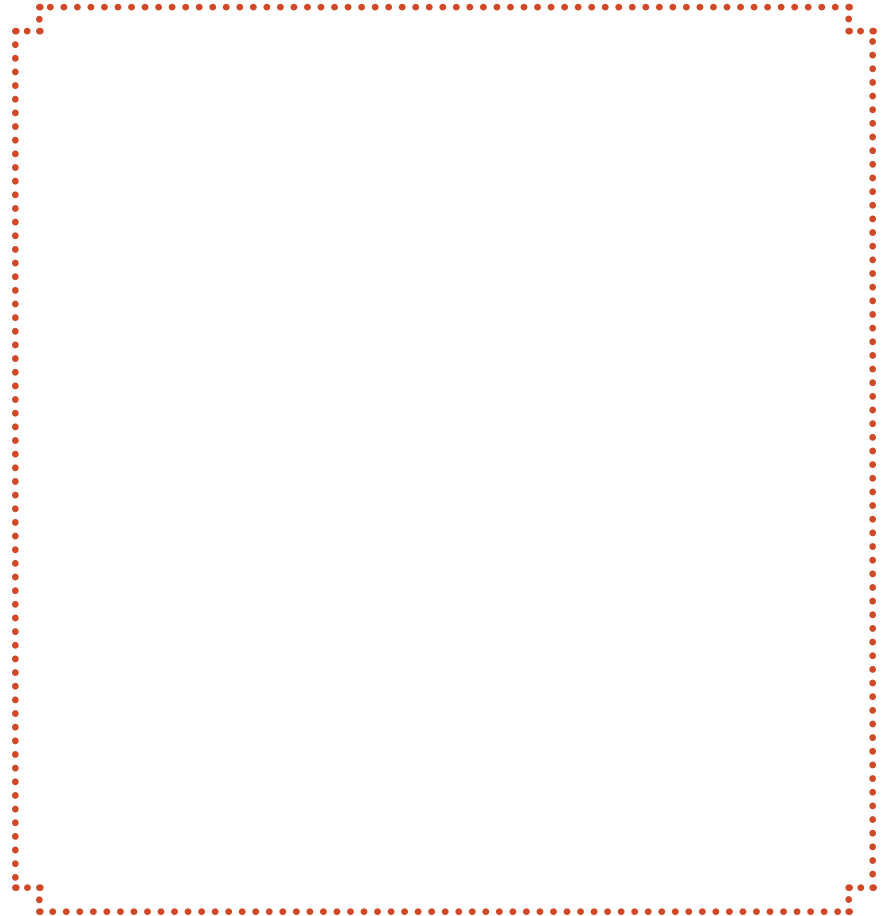
Find a landscape, or picture of nature, that you are drawn to. Why are you drawn to it? What do you notice? **Sketch or write your thoughts.**



Discuss with a friend how the artist has brought their painting to life.

What would it feel like visit this place? Does it remind you of somewhere you've been before?

Find a second landscape that feels different from the first. What do you notice? What makes it feel different from the first landscape?



2

ART OF THE GOLD RUSH

Find two people that pique your curiosity. What do you notice about them? Based on the details in the artworks, what do you think life was like for them?
How do these two people seem similar or different?



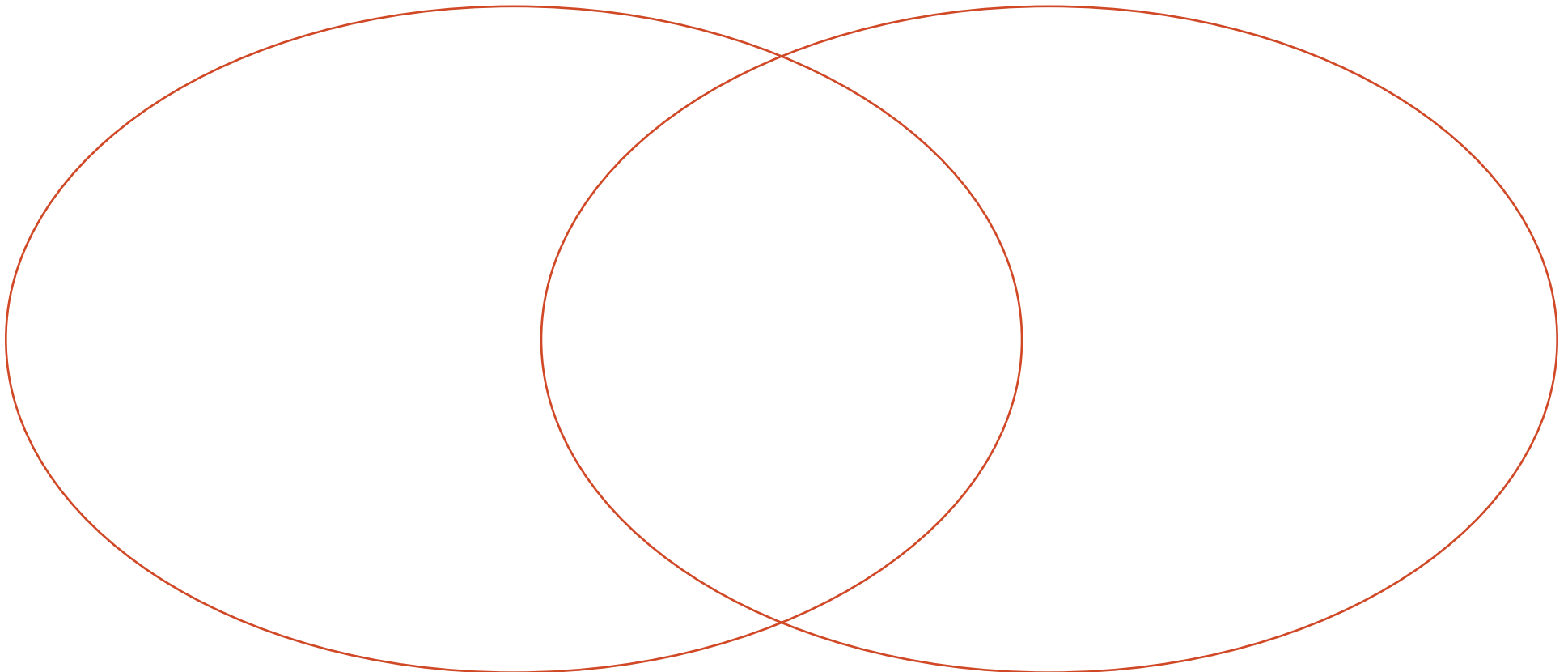
What do you know about the California Gold Rush?



How do your observations support or change what you already knew? To learn more about the Gold Rush, read the labels with short descriptions.

PERSON 1: _____

PERSON 2: _____



3

ASSEMBLING IDENTITY AND THE PORTRAIT WALL

A portrait is a piece of art that represents a person.

Choose a portrait. What adjectives would you use to describe the subject? What do you see that makes you say that? **Draw or write those details below.**

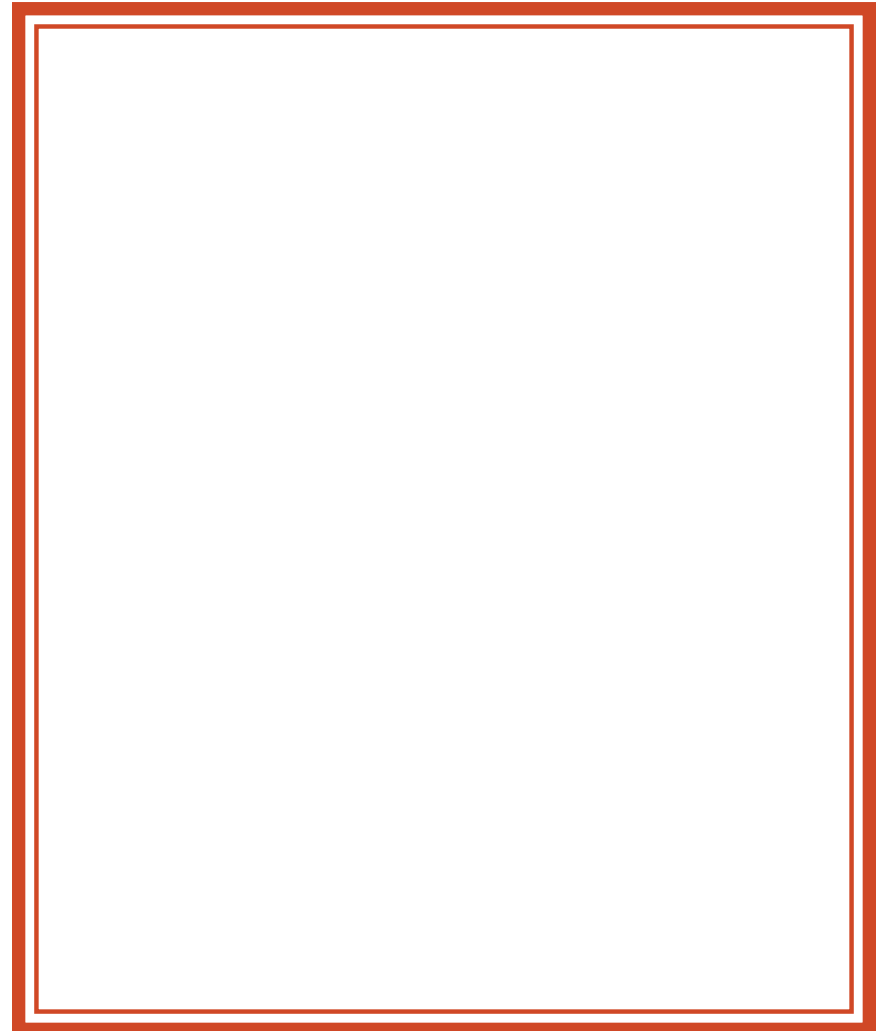


Why would the artist choose to portray the subject in this way?



What else would you like to learn about this person?

Sketch some ideas for your own portrait. Think about what you want others to know about you. **Draw or write five details you'd include to tell others more about yourself.**



4

DOROTHEA LANGE

Dorothea Lange used photography as a tool for social change.

Explore her photos to discover some of the messages she was trying to share and changes she wanted to see in the world.



Choose a photo to investigate.

1. What is happening in the photo?
2. What message do you think the artist was trying to communicate?
What do you see that makes you say that?

Create a short caption for the photograph.



Read Lange's original caption.

1. How does Lange's caption differ from your own?
2. How does the label help you understand Lange's message?



Explore the larger section that your photo is in.

1. What message is Lange trying to share?
2. What issues did she care about documenting and what changes do you think she wanted to see in the world?
3. If Lange were alive and taking photos today, what do you think she'd capture, and why?

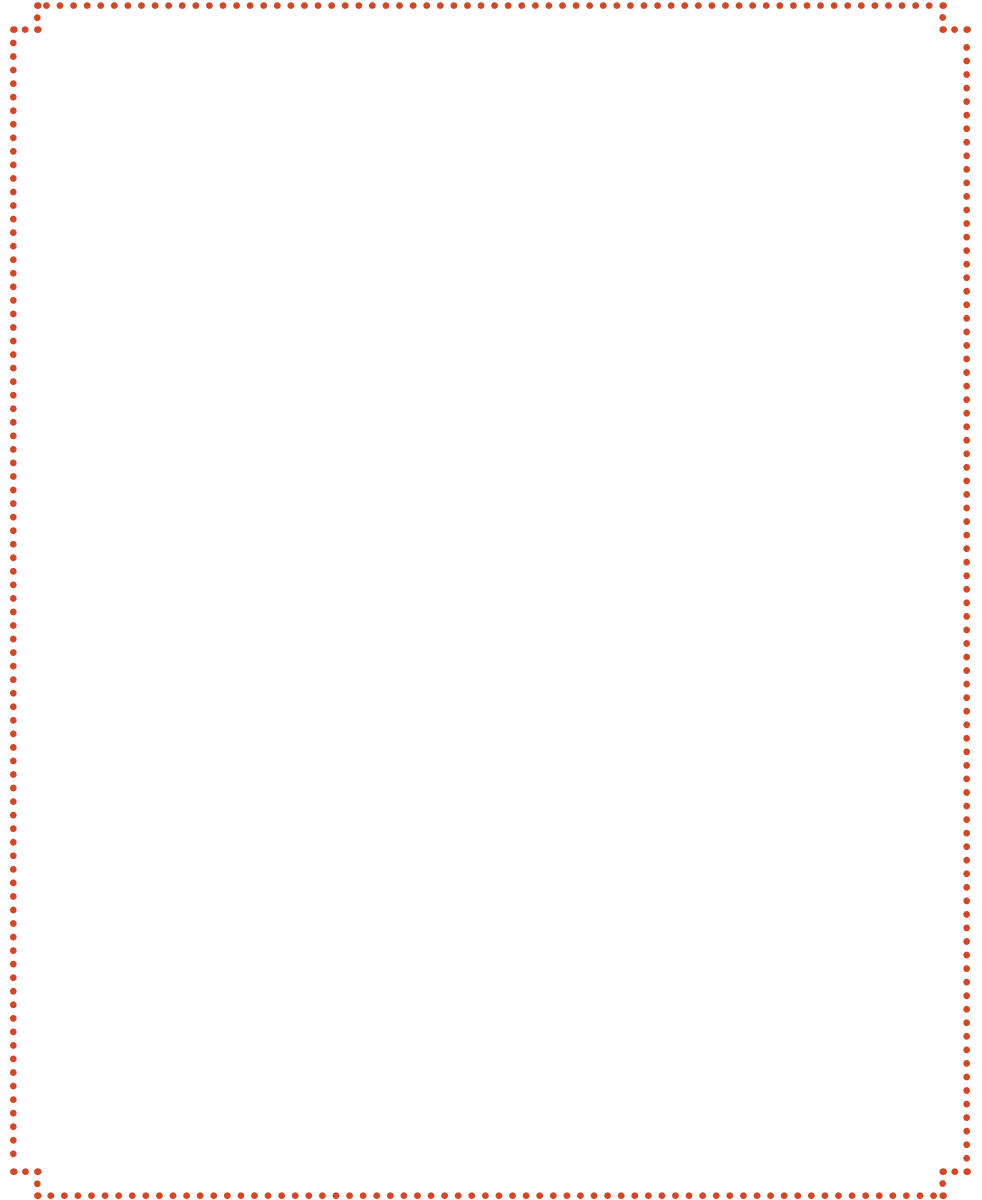
5

HUNG LIU

Hung Liu was often inspired by stories from her childhood in China.

Find an artwork of Hung Liu's that tells an interesting story. What's happening in this painting? What details do you notice? What might they symbolize? What story might Hung Liu be telling?

Write or draw your thoughts.



6

SELF-TAUGHT ARTISTS



Find an artwork with a friend that has lots of details. **What do you both notice?**

Time yourself for one minute—how many things can you notice? **Write or draw as many details as you can.**

STOP

Take a few more minutes to look. What's a new interesting detail that you notice?



What is emerging for you as you spend more time with this artwork?
How is it making you feel? Discuss your interpretation with your friend.
How are your interpretations similar? How are they different?

7

RADICAL ACTS



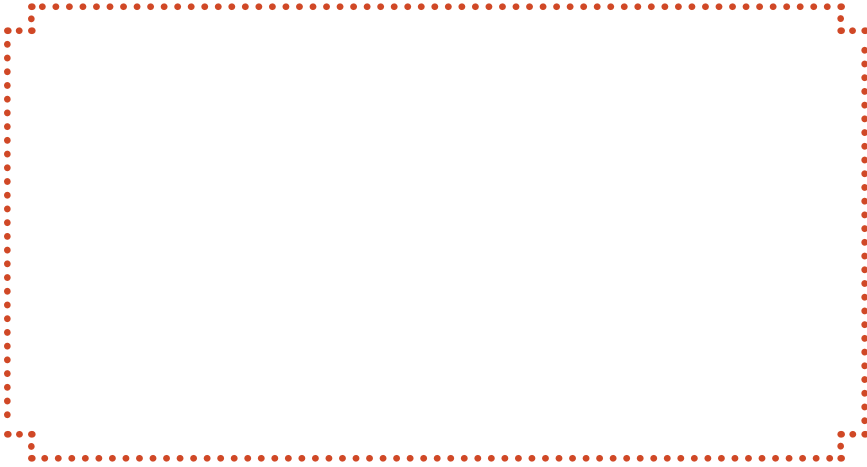
Choose two posters about topics you care about. For each poster:

1. Why do you think the topic is important? How does it connect to an issue today?
2. What message is conveyed?
3. How is the message conveyed? What colors, images, or other artistic choices feel powerful in communicating the message?

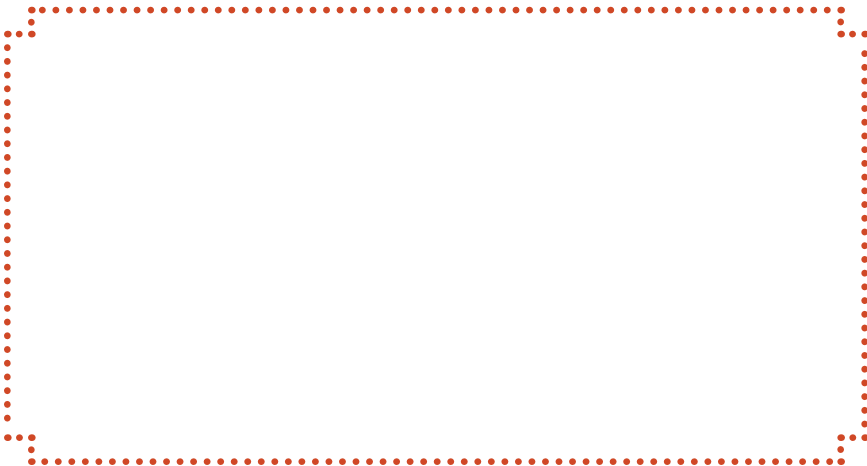
Think of an important issue that you care about. **Using inspiration from the posters in the gallery, sketch an idea for your own poster.**

CREATIVE CALIFORNIA

Look for an artwork that uses unexpected materials. **How would you describe the materials the artist used? How do you think the piece was constructed?**



How do the materials affect your reaction to the piece? Would you consider it art if you did not see it in a museum?



Think of a unique material you would like to create an artwork with. **Brainstorm how you would create art with that material.**

