INTRODUCTION


By emphasizing process over product, QUESTION THE BODY blurs the boundaries between writing, visual art, appropriation, performance, and assemblage. Works in this series were created during a residency at Hewnoaks Artist Colony in Lovell, Maine. All natural objects were collected from the grounds of the residency during the artist’s weeklong stay in 2019.

LESSON

Take a look at the On Screen artwork of Erin Dorney found on our website at https://cmcanow.org/event/screen-dorney-question-the-body/. Inspired by the art making process in Dorney’s featured work and additional project Home Poems, create an abstract redaction poem by recycling an already existing work of writing. Additional poetry projects and resources can be viewed at erindorney.com.

CRITICAL QUESTIONS

What are some words that I see? What can a poem look like? What are some features of abstract visual art? How can I apply what I understand about abstract art to a piece of writing?

*Abstract poems do not have to make sense! They can be a collective of words or ideas that sound good together or look as though they belong.

CELEBRATE YOUR WORK

Build a collection of your own abstract poems and share them with family and friends, teach your siblings or parents the process and share what you’ve created with us @cmcanow.
**VOCABULARY**

Abstract: a form of artistic response to a physical reality, simplified marks to complex physical information

Redaction Poem: repurposing a work of writing using the editing technique of blacking out text to transform original visual form and meaning

Outline: line restricted to the area around text or physical shape

Negative Space: area in between objects, texts

Emphasis: focal point in a visual artwork

**MATERIALS**

- Recycled food containers
- Labels
- Magazines
- Wide marker
- Tape - optional

**INSTRUCTIONS**

**STEP 1**

Collect a handful of labels and writings you find around the house. These may take the form of a pasta box, can of beans, or old print outs.

**STEP 2**

Observe closely words that stand out to you and begin to cross out the words around it using a solid tape or marker. Emphasize a particular word(s) by outlining them and scratching out the extra text.

**STEP 3**

Form shapes from your blocked out areas. Think about the negative spaces you create as a frame for the poems you’re forming.

**TIPS & TRICKS:**

- When assisting younger artists create a game where they choose words that they can spell or identify
- Older art makers challenge yourself by creating a collection of abstract texts to form your own installation of works
Erin Dorney

Left Top: Home Poems, 2020
Photograph, recycled cardboard

Left Bottom: Home Poems, 2020
Photograph, recycled cardboard

Bottom Left: Question the Body, 2019
Recycled paper, Wood
On Screen 6:53

Bottom Right: Question the Body, 2019
Recycled paper, Wood
On Screen 6:53