### INTRODUCTION

*QUESTION THE BODY* is a collection of photographs and time-lapse videos where gathered natural objects obscure pages from “The Question and Answer Book About The Human Body” by Ann McGovern (Random House, 1965). Through recorded erasure/redaction, each poem is built by the disembodied hands of the artist. The unobscured text reveals inquiries into physical form, preference, expression, and function.

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/](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.

### CRITICAL QUESTIONS

- What are some letters I can know? Can I outline the letters I know?
- What are the sounds of the letters? Can I find and circle a capitol letter?
- Can I create a dashed line striking out the text?

*Abstract poems do not have to make sense! They can be a collective of letters, words, or feelings that sound good together or look cohesive.*

### 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
Uppercase: larger size letter within the word, used at beginning of a sentence, name, title or abbreviation.
Lowercase: small letters used in majority of words following capitol letters.
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.
Emphasis: focal point in a visual artwork.

MATERIALS
• Recycled food boxes with text
• Labels
• Magazines
• Marker or crayon
• Small found objects that you have a collection of (i.e. LEGOS, crayons, blocks, rocks)

INSTRUCTIONS
STEP 1
Find a cereal box or recycled text that can be recycled in your home.

STEP 2
Choose one or two word/letter(s) you can identify, sound out, and write your own. Outline this word/letter throughout the text, try to find every single one.

STEP 3
Carefully cover up the words and text around the circled letter(s) using toys, found object, or marker. This will emphasize the letter that you have just circled.

TIPS & TRICKS:
- When assisting challenge young artist to identify whether the letter is uppercase, lowercase.
- Encourage artist to sound out word/letter while circling.
Erin Dorney
Above and Below: *Question the Body, Why* 2019
Recycled Paper & Sticks
On Screen 6:53