

# TANG AT HOME STUDIO: MOVE + DRAW

Featuring artist Tschabalala Self from the Tang exhibition  
[\*Never Done: 100 Years of Women in Politics and Beyond\*](#)



Tschabalala Self, *Vanity*, 2020

Silk, charmeuse, velvet, fabric, painted canvas, and acrylic on canvas, 96 x 84 inches  
On loan to the Tang Teaching Museum from the Longlati Foundation collection

## LOOK AND DISCUSS

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Tschabalala Self, *Vanity*, 2020

1. **Look closely** at Tschabalala Self's mixed-media painting *Vanity*.
2. **What do you notice?** Discuss with a partner: What stands out to you? What do you think the figure in red is doing? What do you think about the dark shape below the figure in red? Is it a shadow or another figure? Describe the emotions the figure's poses and colors might suggest.
3. **Reflect:** Why do you think Self named the work *Vanity*? What stories do you imagine unfolding between the figures?

## ABOUT THE ARTIST

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Tschabalala (pronounced sha-ba-la-la) Self was born in 1990 in Harlem, New York. She now lives in New Haven, Connecticut. Self creates paintings or "assemblages," where she combines a variety of paints and fabric. She stitches the fabric into the canvas with a sewing machine and creates imagined figures and scenes. Self's work explores ideas of everyday life, the Black female body, and humanity.



Photo: Joshua Cobb; Courtesy of the artist and Pilar Corrias

## MAKE

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**Suggested Materials:** Paper, pencil, markers, magazine, colored paper, fabric—use what you have available!



Drawing by Geraldine Santoso '22

### Movement + Drawing Project:

1. Get up and move! Think about different shapes you can make with your body. Choose three poses that express who you are.
2. Teach a partner your poses. Then have them model your poses while you draw them!
3. Add to your drawing with materials such as magazine cut-outs and multicolored paper that further express and visually illustrate who you are in these poses.
4. Share your drawing with a friend or family member!

## LEARN MORE

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Tschabalala Self, *Bellyphat*, 2016, painted canvas, fabric, oil, acrylic and flashe on canvas, collection of Craig Robins

*Vanity* explores how bodies are affected by race and gender. Through paint and stitched fabric, this work and many of her other bodies of work, is assembled in a collage style. Her artmaking process reflects the idea that we are made up of fragments of memories and identities. In Self's own words, "You are the sum of your experiences, but you also absorb... all of the different ideas and experiences of others. My process mimics this phenomenon."



Tschabalala Self, *Bars*, 2017. Colored pencil, gouache, photocopies of hand-colored drawings, acrylic, flashe, fabric, and painted canvas on canvas. Photo: Andrea Rossetti. Courtesy of the artist and Pilar Corrias Gallery.

## SHARE

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Take a photo of your work and post it on social media with the hashtags #TangAtHome and #ArtWithTheTang!

**Sunny Ra**

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**For more art-making activities, check out:**

<https://tang.skidmore.edu/education/tang-at-home>