

CLOSE-LOOKING EXERCISE



William Acedo, *Dia de los Muertos no es Jalogün*, 2013
Woodblock print on paper, printed at Self Help Graphics & Art
30 x 22 ½ in., Tang purchase, 2018.5.6

CLOSE-LOOKING EXERCISE: WILLIAM ACEDO

Look closely: Examine the artwork closely.

Investigate: Take about 10–15 minutes to write down and/or discuss your observations. Here are some things to think about to help you get started:

- What symbols can you identify? What other representations are present and what do they communicate?
- Woodblock prints are created by carving a block of wood so that the areas carved away are recessed and do not pick up ink when the print is transferred to paper. Consider the design elements of this print with this process in mind. What type of marks does the artist use to create the composition you see? How does the artist create the text?
- Día de los Muertos, or Day of the Dead, is a Mexican holiday when families welcome deceased loved ones for a brief reunion with the spirit world through a celebration of life. The artwork title includes the phrase “no es Jalogüin,” or “it is not Halloween.” What is the artist’s intention by including this phrase in the title?

Explain your ideas about the artwork, including how you are understanding it and why. What are you seeing that leads you to those ideas? Back up your ideas with visual evidence from the artwork. Ask yourself and others: What do you see that makes you say that?

Refer back to the artwork and look closer. What more can you find?

Reflect: What have you discovered from looking closely and writing about and/or discussing the artwork with others? What did you discover about how you unpack and understand this artwork?

- Self Help Graphics & Art is a community organization in Los Angeles that offers art programs in the Chicax and Latinx communities. Self Help Graphics also provides a wide variety of community programs that serve at the intersection of arts and social justice. Do you think that this type of organization can bring about positive change for underrepresented and underserved communities through art making? How so?
- How can printmaking specifically act as a tool for education and learning? What is it about this medium that makes it accessible?
- If art creates a path to learn about cultures, identities, and histories, how is this print significant in terms of the context in which it was made?