

Hello!

I'm an activity guide that will help you explore Mickalene Thomas's exhibition.



## About the artist

Mickalene Thomas was born in 1971 in Camden, New Jersey, and currently lives and works in Brooklyn, New York. She is known for her lush, colorful paintings, and used her time in Aspen, as the AAM's 2015–2016 Gabriela and Ramiro Garza Distinguished Artist in Residence, to create a new body of work in film, video, and silkscreen.

## Let's go into Gallery 5!

Take a seat on one of the many brightly colored ottomans you see around the gallery.

Mickalene loves the bright colors and patterns of 1970s fabric from when she was growing up.

Can you find any similarities between the patterns in this sitting area and any of the artworks?

Sketch your favorite patterns here:


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

Pick your favorite portrait!

Mickalene creates portraits of women who inspire her.

How many people can you find that reappear in artworks throughout the exhibition? Do you recognize anyone?

Look again at the portrait that you chose.

Imagine the person you see is telling you a story. What would they say?

Write down their story in the space below.

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# At Home

Mickalene chose to give her exhibition the title *Mentors, Muses, and Celebrities* to recognize strong female figures that have inspired the artist.

Think about a person for each of these words:

## Mentor

Someone with  
experience who  
helps you

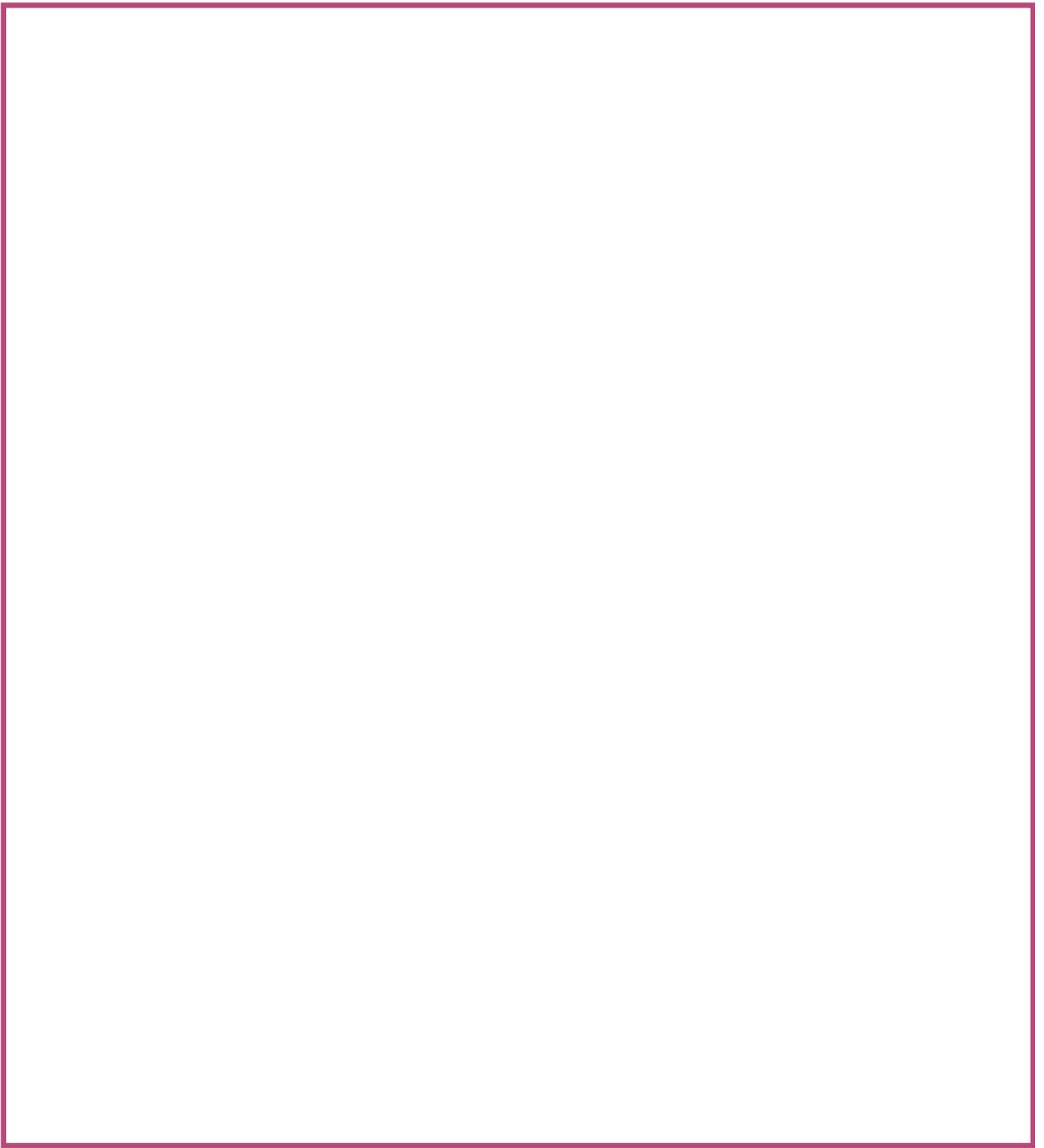
## Muse

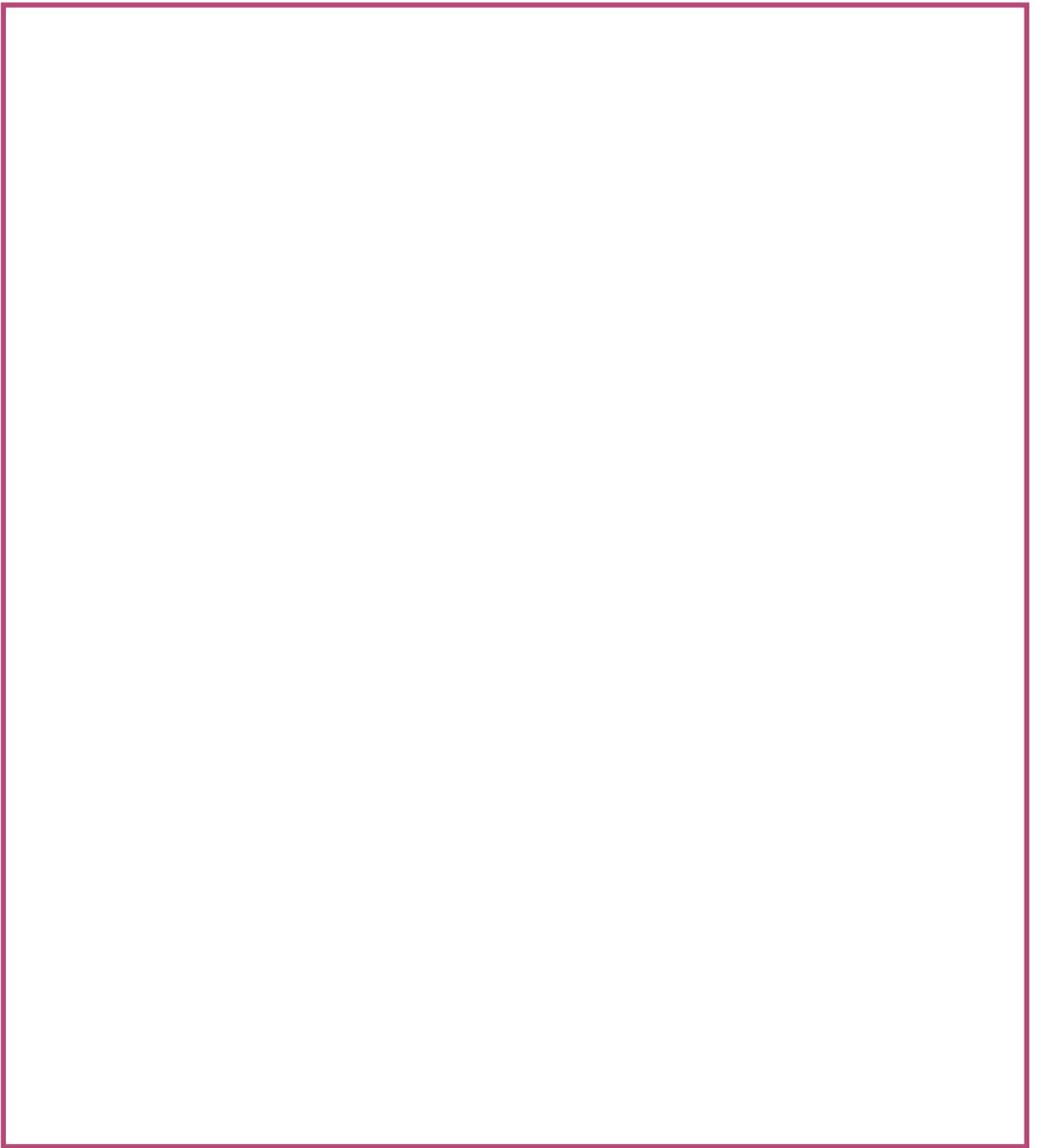
Someone  
who gives  
you artistic  
inspiration

## Celebrity

Someone who  
is famous that  
you admire

On the opposite side, make a portrait for each of these people, and share your creations with your friends and family. Take time to explain why these people are important to you.





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Admission to the AAM is FREE courtesy of Amy and John Phelan

[aspenartmuseum.org](http://aspenartmuseum.org)

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