

CHRISTINE SUN KIM: Bounce Back



Christine Sun Kim, preparatory drawing for *Bounce Back*, 2023



What meanings are drawn from the word “debt?”

Christine Sun Kim: Bounce Back

For the mural titled *Bounce Back*, artist Christine Sun Kim made a black and white drawing of hands signing the word “debt” in American Sign Language (ASL). Provide students with a brief overview of ASL. Discuss the meaning of the word “debt” and its various nuances. Have students look carefully at the image and share ideas about what they see, understand, and feel.

Ask your students:

What meanings are drawn from the word “debt?”

K-2

INQUIRY

- Explore *Bounce Back*. Describe the movement energy in the mural. What do these hands seem to express?

PROJECT

- Make a list of ways we communicate with our hands (wave hello, point for direction, cross our fingers, etc.)
- Choose one gesture and make a large drawing with black paint or a large marker. Add lines and arrows to show the movement and direction.

3-5

INQUIRY

- Describe murals you see in your school or neighborhood. What makes a mural different from most drawings and paintings?
- Share what meaning you have found in these murals.

PROJECT

- Brainstorm one-word ideas for an empowering mural. Pick one idea and sketch a few proposals. Use bold outlined images to express the one-word theme.
- Learn and practice the mural’s one-word in ASL.

6-8

INQUIRY

- By using Virtual ICA LA, view the

mural virtually with your computer.

- Explore details of the mural’s imagery, its size and location.

PROJECT

- Write an analysis about *Bounce Back*. Describe how its medium, imagery, scale, and location impact the mood and message of the work.

9-12

INQUIRY

- Discuss ways *Bounce Back* addresses accessibility. Research and share information about other artistic projects that address accessibility (i.e. artworks, film, photography, writing).

PROJECT

- Form teams to collaborate on a project about accessibility. The project can be an artwork, a short video using a smartphone or camera, or a presentation to the classroom about the research.



Preparatory drawing for *Bounce Back*, 2023 (detail)

Christine Sun Kim: *Bounce Back* is organized by Amanda Soika, Senior Curator, with Caroline Ellen Linn, Curatorial Assistant. Major support for *Christine Sun Kim: Bounce Back* is provided by Palatine Capital Partners. ICA LA is supported by the Curator's Council and Fieldwork Council. © 2023 Institute of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles. Printing: Patrick Seeholzer, Continental Colorcraft. Design: Lynn Robb

ARTransmissions connects school communities with the Institute of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles (ICA LA) and introduces resources for art education and learning tools. This poster serves as a visual aid to reach a deeper understanding of selected artworks exhibited at the museum.

Christine Sun Kim’s practice considers how sound operates in society, deconstructs the politics of sound, and explores how oral languages operate as social currency. Musical notation, written language, infographics, American Sign Language (ASL), the use of the body, and strategically deployed humor are all recurring elements in her practice. Working across the mediums of drawing, performance, experimental sound, video, and large-scale murals, Kim’s work engages with the limits and possibilities of language—be it spoken, signed, or scripted. Her work brings together sarcastic humor and incisive critique to illuminate the systems of power embedded in oral communications and investigate the complex realities of Deaf culture.

The work of Christine Sun Kim is marked by an ongoing exploration of the limits and possibilities of language—be it spoken, signed, or scripted. Titled *Bounce Back*, this new site-specific mural builds on Kim’s recent body of work focusing on debt—a word signed in American Sign Language (ASL) by one index finger tapping the open palm of the opposite hand. Creating her own kind of ASL notation, Kim traces the movements of the tapping finger by incorporating into the drawing a double bouncing line reminiscent of graphics used in old cartoons or comic books to indicate motion. Moving from hand to hand, these lines emphasize the relational aspect of debt. What exactly is owed? And to whom? Kim’s mural offers a poignant meditation on systemic inequity and shared experience under debt, and it invites us to consider our collective responsibility in contributing to the layers of financial, historical, social, and emotional debt that structure and define everyday life.

ARTransmissions

Christine Sun Kim



Preparatory drawing for *Bounce Back*, 2023 (detail)



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Virtual ICA LA allows you to virtually visit our space and view Christine Sun Kim’s mural *Bounce Back* as well as other exhibitions using your computer or smartphone. theicala.org/en/digital-projects