

TANG AT HOME STUDIO: SELF-PORTRAIT REMIX

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



Deborah Roberts, *Glass Castles*, 2017, mixed media on paper,
30 x 22 inches, purchased with generous funding from
Ann Schapps Schaffer '62 and Melvyn S. Schaffer

LOOK

1. **Look closely** at *Glass Castles* by artist Deborah Roberts on the previous page.
2. **What do you notice?** Take a few minutes to write down or discuss with a partner, such as a parent or guardian, sibling or friend, what stands out to you about this artwork. What different kinds of images are used to create this collage of a young girl? Why do you think she's wearing a red boxing glove? Describe the figure's body language, facial expression, clothing, and accessories.
3. **Reflect:** What stories can you imagine about this young girl? Why do you think the piece is titled *Glass Castles*? What do you think the artist is trying to express or communicate in this mixed media artwork?

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Deborah Roberts is a mixed-media artist based in Austin, Texas. She uses her art to show that there are more ways to be beautiful than commonly found in many fashion magazines. She also uses her art to fight against negative stereotypes of Black people. She wants to uplift people, especially young black girls, with positive messages.

MAKE

Suggested Materials: Pencil, magazines, newspapers, colored pencils, markers, cardstock paper, construction paper—use whatever you have available!

Collage: Self-Portrait Remix

How do you see yourself? What are your hobbies? What makes you feel confident?

1. Using cutouts from magazines and newspapers, you can begin creating a portrait of yourself.
You can use images, words and patterns to express who you are.
2. Think about scale of different parts of your portrait. If you want to emphasize something about yourself, make that part larger or more decorative to visually express its importance.
3. Optional: Write 2-3 sentences describing your self-portrait and share with a loved one!

LEARN MORE

Deborah Roberts finds images online, manipulates and prints them, then collages them together and sometimes adds paint, like she did to make the red glove in *Glass Castles*. Roberts wants young children to see this Black girl and know that she is young and innocent and strong. She hopes people of all backgrounds will see themselves in the girl. Roberts said in an interview with the Tang, "We're human. We're only clothed in different colored skin."

SHARE

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

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For more art-making activities, check out:
<https://tang.skidmore.edu/education/tang-at-home>