

CLOSE-LOOKING EXERCISE



Jeffrey Gibson, *I'M GONNA TRY JUST A LITTLE BIT HARDER*, 2015, cotton, thread, wool, canvas, vintage thimbles, glass beads, artificial sinew, recycled artist's own shirts, steel studs, rawhide, acrylic, cardboard, wood, 80 x 55 x 2 in., Tang purchase, 2017.31a-b

CLOSE-LOOKING EXERCISE: JEFFREY GIBSON

Look closely: Examine the artwork closely.

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

- What are you noticing about this work? What is recognizable immediately?
- What do you think about the materials that the artist is employing here?
What do they remind you of?
- What larger ideas could the artist be trying to communicate through the use of textiles?
How does the artist's use of textile speak to assumptions we hold about "fine" art?
- What do you think about the text: *I'M GONNA TRY JUST A LITTLE BIT HARDER*?
What are some possible meanings?
- What might the centerpiece signify?

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 and/or discussing the artwork with others? What did you discover about how you unpack and understand this artwork?

- Is the artist trying to elicit an emotional response from you, the viewer? Why or why not?
Is that relevant?
- How does this work and the ideas opened up from this work relate to what's going on in your community and in the world today?
- What connections can you make between this work and our world right now or historically?