

# Art History & Crafts with the Zuccaire Gallery

**LOVE THYSELF**



**WITH THE ART OF  
MICKALENE THOMAS**

*Celebrating Black  
History Month 2021*

Art of Mickalene Thomas  
Craft: Diva Self- Portrait

[www.mickalenethomas.com](http://www.mickalenethomas.com)

Image: Mickalene Thomas, *Brawlin' Spitfire Wrestlers*, 2007,  
Hydrocal (painted)

# The Artist:

Mickalene Thomas







MICHELLE O  
2008



WHEN ENDS MEET  
2007



TROIS DIVAS  
2009



*PORTRAIT OF SOLANGE SITTING ON EDGE OF COUCH*  
2013



*RACQUEL COME TO ME*  
2015



*TO BE TITLED (QUSUQUZAH)*  
2018

Impressionism: style of art developed during the late 19th century - early 20th century characterized by short brush strokes of bright colors in juxtaposition to represent the effects of light on objects.

Cubism: An artistic movement in the early 20th century characterized by the depiction of natural forms as geometric structures of planes.

The Harlem Renaissance: a renewal and flourishing of Black literary and musical culture during the years after World War I in the Harlem section of New York City during the 1920's and 1930's.



# Video:

\*DISCLAIMER: Please note a 2-minute video with some female nudity will be shown during the presentation. Please determine beforehand if this video is appropriate for your children.

**Click to watch:**

<https://www.mickalenethomas.com/video/about.mp4>

# Black Femininity and Bodies

Portrayal of black women in the media has often been limited to inaccurate, two-dimensional and detrimental depictions

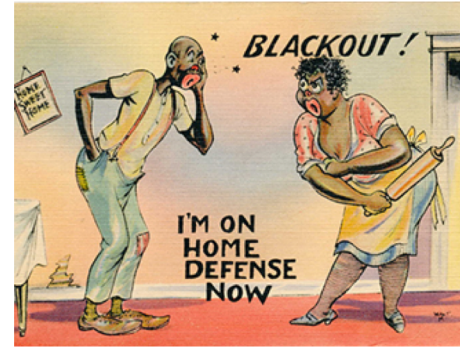
Sapphire/ "Angry Black Woman"

Jezebel

Mammy

Defeminized even when (hyper)sexualized

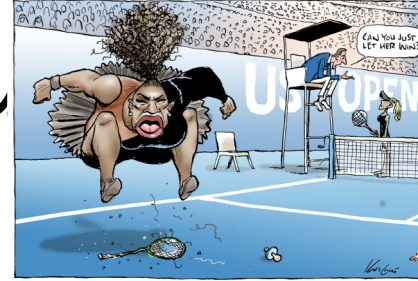
Rooted in transphobia





# Black Femininity and Bodie

- Generalization and misrepresentation of black women have taken its place out of media and fiction into reality
- Common to publicly defeminize black women
  - Serena and Venus Williams
  - Michelle Obama
  - Megan thee Stallion
  - Laverne Cox
  - Leslie Jones
- Exclusion of black women as feminine and powerful with a different traits
  - Includes masculine and feminine



# Black Femininity and Bodies

- Much of Mickalene Thomas' work shifts the narrative from what has been written by racists and sexists to “celebrating black femininity and sexuality in a different way by claiming the space that seemed to be voided”
- Just as there is ambiguity in the terms “sexuality” and “masculinity”, there is ambiguity to “*who a black woman is*” that deserves to be represented
- “To see yourself and for others to see you is a form of validation”
- Proper representation is necessary and vital
  - Including in art



Maya #7, 2015



This Girl Could be Dangerous, 2007



# Diva Self-Portrait Collage

## Items Needed:

1. Picture print out of self in pose. This can be on picture paper or regular printer paper.
2. Tracing Paper
3. Glue (pick your poison: modge podge, Nori, Elmer's Glue, etc.)
4. Magazine/ Paper Scraps/ Notebook paper/
  1. Hand-colored paper/etc.
5. Glitter/Rhinestones/Beads/sequins/  
needle and thread to sew (optional)

