

# THE VIEW FROM HERE

Contemporary Perspectives from Senegal



## Souwere (Under Glass Painting)

Souwere is the Senegalese tradition of under glass painting that requires the artist to paint in reverse.

Artist Fally Sene Sow combines found materials such as magazines, foil, goat hair, and sand with *souwere* to capture the activity and life of his community in Senegal, West Africa.

## What you'll need

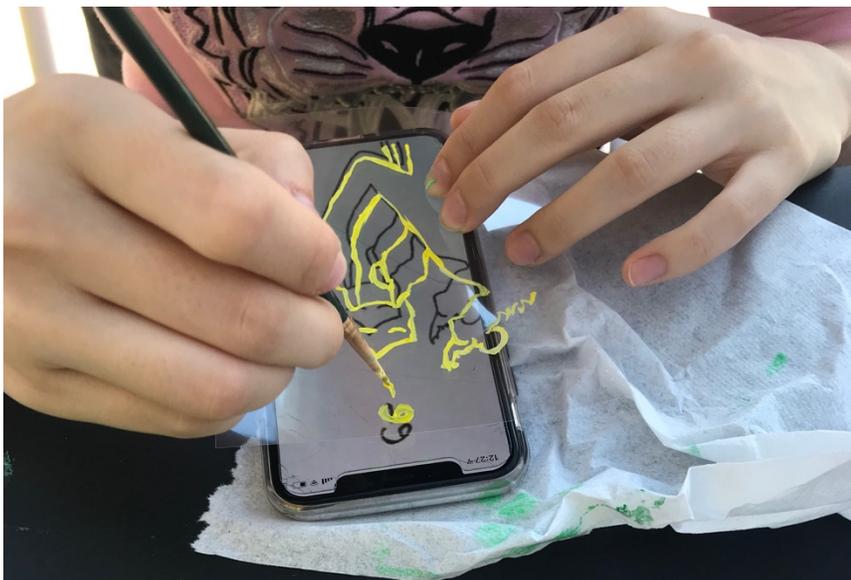
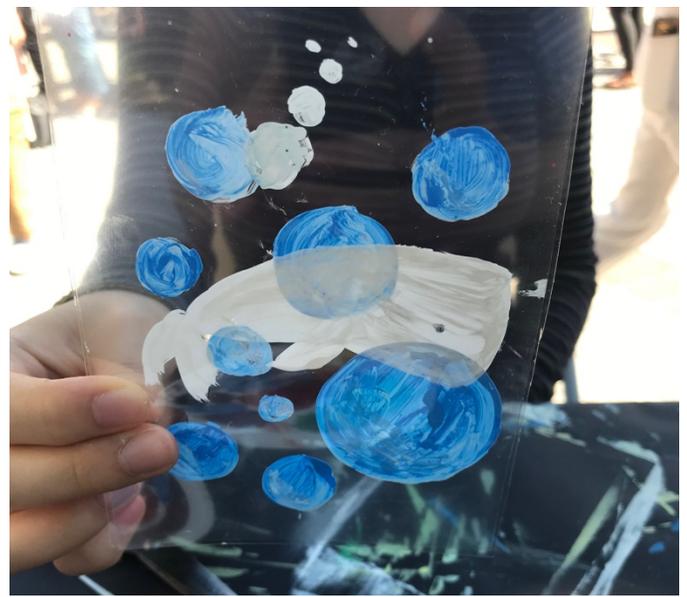
- 2 pieces of clear plastic transparency sheet or other clear flat material. *Try transfer paper, Ziplock bag, wax paper, glass, or plastic wrap.*
- Paint
- Paint brush
- Collage materials (*optional*) such as construction paper or magazine cut outs



## Directions

### 1. Paint in reverse

Hold up one side of the transfer paper and paint on the underside. Since you're painting in reverse you should paint images in the foreground before painting the background. For example, imagine painting a smiley face in reverse- first, you would paint the eyes and the mouth, second, you would paint the face. *If painting in reverse is too difficult, simply paint on top of the transfer paper*



*Hint: you can also use transfer paper to trace an image you want to paint*

### 2. Paint your background

On the second piece of transfer paper paint the background of your picture. Lay the transfer paper flat on a table and paint facing up.

### 3. Combine

Once you've painted both pieces of the transfer paper, combine them by placing the background piece on the bottom face up, and the foreground piece on the top face down. *If you did not paint the top piece in reverse, combine transfer papers both facing up.*



## About the Artist and Artwork

Fally Sene Sow (b. 1989, Dakar)

In this picture, Fally Sene Sow combines *souwere* (under glass) painting and collage to show a busy marketplace in the artist's hometown of Dakar, Senegal, in West Africa. He shows buyers and sellers, buildings and stall umbrellas, vehicles and lots of people. He has gathered bits and pieces from the marketplace, including magazines, foil, and twine, as well as the plants and sand of Dakar's streets in his picture. The scene becomes familiar thanks to this method of gathering individual elements and collaging a sense of fondness—a sense of home.



Fally Sene Sow, *Talibé yi ci mbeddu colobine*, 2018, collage under glass



Fally Sene Sow, *Tilén by Night*, 2018, collage under glass