

FRIENDS & NEIGHBORS WITH MR. GEORGE

Carrie Mae Weems

Steeped in Black history, the work of Carrie Mae Weems has explored issues of race, class and gender identity. Primarily working in photography and video, but also exploring everything from verse to performance, Weems has said that regardless of medium, activism is a central concern of her practice—specifically, looking at history as a way of better understanding the present. “Photography can be used as a powerful weapon toward instituting political and cultural change,” she has said. “I for one will continue to work toward this end.” She rose to prominence with her “Kitchen Table Series” in the early 1990s. These photographs depict the artist seated at her kitchen table and examine various tropes and stereotypes of what it means to be Black in America. Most recently, her achievements were recognized with a “genius grant” from the MacArthur Foundation.



Carrie Mae Weems (American, 1953)
Untitled (Putting on Make-Up) from Kitchen Table Series II, 1990-1999
Gelatin silver print
Purchased by the Fitzpatrick Society from Jack Shainman Gallery, 2011.7

ACTIVITY

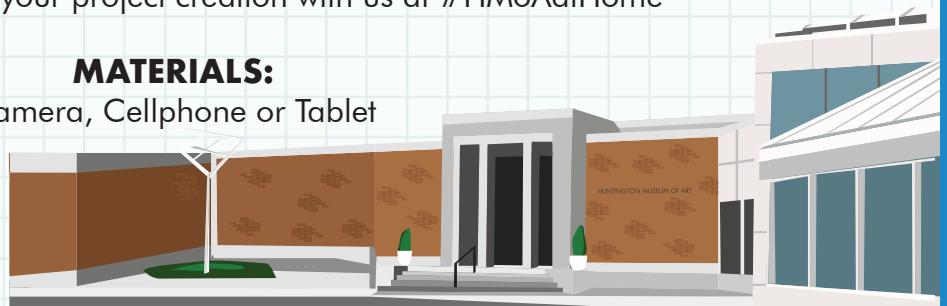
Photographic technology has not always been at the tips of our fingers as it is today. We snap photos on our phones indiscriminately; at anything, and everything. This certainly has not always been the case. Photographic technology has been around since the 11th century but the first photograph was not printed until 1826. We take for granted the long history to the effortlessness it takes today.

Capture a black-&-white image that really shows you and/or your household. Inspired by the work of Carrie Mae Weems’ “Kitchen Table Series” use your dining or kitchen table to set the scene. Rituals around our kitchen tables are steeped in Appalachian traditions. Your image can be a simple expression, or you may want to use a prop to show interest or support a narrative. A narrative is a story or theme. Get creative and really think about what your image shares or represents.

Do not forget to share your project creation with us at #HMoAatHome

MATERIALS:

Camera, Cellphone or Tablet



What does your table look like?

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