

MICRO-ARTMAKING LESSON

Inspired by [2022 MFA Thesis Exhibitions](#)

MAPPING EVENTS AND EXPERIENCES

This activity is inspired by the recurring theme of documenting important life events, experiences, and influences evident in artworks throughout the [MFA Thesis Exhibitions](#). Take a moment to explore the exhibitions. Look for ways the artists have used and arranged materials, objects, and imagery to suggest connections between people, places, things, and/or events. How do the colors, shapes, and patterns in the artworks communicate ideas? How do they reveal information about the artists?

Step 1: Think about important experiences, people, and places that have impacted who and where you are today. Brainstorm colors, shapes, patterns, materials, and objects you associate with these influences. See [Japheth Asiedu-Kwarteng's](#), [Sargylana Cherepanova's](#), and [Emma Oliver's](#) artwork for inspiration.

Step 2: Using selected materials, draw and/or sculpt an artwork that represents the life experiences and influences you focused on in step 1. Think about how to show connections between the images and/or objects in your artwork. Consider how your arrangement of elements can be used to suggest a timeline or trail as seen in Richard Oliver Reed's [Imaginary Landscapes](#) and Nicci Arnold's accordion book [Gestation of Solitude](#). Notice how [Peytin Fitzgerald](#) has used string and stitching to indicate ties between items, objects, and ideas.

Step 3: After creating your artwork, reflect on your use of materials and arrangement of visual elements. How do these choices work together to convey ideas and inform the viewer about your life experiences?

Step 4: Photograph your work and share it with us on Instagram by tagging us at #universitygalleriesisu.



Japheth Asiedu-Kwarteng,
installation view of *J.C.H.J.*,
2022. Courtesy of the artist.



Richard Oliver Reed,
installation view of
Imaginary Landscapes,
2022. Courtesy of the artist.



Peytin Fitzgerald,
installation view
of *Seven: twenty
four*, 2022.
Courtesy of the
artist.

SELECTIONS FROM THE PRESS RELEASE

2022 MFA Thesis Exhibitions featured eight simultaneous solo exhibitions by Master of Fine Arts students in Illinois State's Wonsook Kim School of Art: Nicci Arnold, Japheth Asiedu-Kwarteng, Aca Carle, Sargylana Cherepanova, Peytin Fitzgerald, Priscilla Kar Yee Lo, Emma Oliver, and Richard Oliver Reed.

The exhibitions were the culmination of the students' research during their three-year program. In addition to writing a thesis and creating their artwork, each student developed their own exhibition plan, installed their work, and wrote their accompanying labels. University Galleries is thrilled to partner with the Wonsook Kim School of Art to offer graduating MFA students this opportunity for professional development.

View the exhibition video tour [here](#).