

“Try a Little Tenderness” Alexandria Smith, 2017



Alexandria Smith explores coming-of-age themes in her artwork. She deconstructs pieces of the body - legs, hands, pig-tails- and transforms them into a monumental size. Removed from the context of the body and shown in large scales helps the viewer see these parts in a curious new way. This shift in perspective represents the ways young girls find themselves transforming and evolving into their individuality and adulthood. Smith's artwork tells mythological stories about growing up.



*Not-quite-
adolescent girls
beginning to
develop senses.*



Meet the Artist!

Alexandria earned her BFA in Illustration from Syracuse University, MA in Art Education from New York University, and MFA in Painting and Drawing from Parsons The New School for Design in 2010. Smith is the recipient of numerous awards and residencies. Her recent exhibitions in New York include a solo exhibit at Scaramouche Gallery, group exhibitions at The Schomburg Center, Thierry Goldberg Gallery and Rush Arts Gallery.

Coming-of-Age Collage

Alexandria Smith's artwork uses imagery out of context and juxtaposition to tell stories. Let's explore existing imagery and create our own stories through collage.

<https://www.u-ca.org/exhibition/try-a-little-tenderness>

Essential Questions:

How do you feel about being your age?

What age do you most look forward to being?

What does it mean to be a kid?

What does it mean to be a grown-up?

*What colors, images, objects, words remind you of being young?
Being old?*



1. Collect a variety of sources of images that you can cut into a collage. Please get parents' permission before cutting into anything. Sources could include; newspapers, old magazines, unwanted books, advertisements, catalogs, pamphlets, and junk mail.
2. Flip through your materials cutting or tearing out images that spark your imagination. Include body parts, faces, objects, foods, toys, patches of color, words, letters - anything that pops out to you.
3. Place your images together and think about what sorts of stories you can tell with your pieces. Use the essential questions to think about childhood vs adulthood like Alexandria Smith.
4. Using adhesive - tape or glue- arrange your images in a composition together that suits your story.
5. Share your collage with your family. Discuss your answers to the above questions and how you represented those ideas in your collage. Ask your family how they would respond to these questions.