

## ***“Salon Time” Althea Murphy-Price, 2018***



*Salon Time* features three artists who explore and celebrate the rituals and culture surrounding Black women's hair care. Black hair care typically involves repetitive, ritualized labor to create and maintain hairstyles. It can often take several hours if not days to complete one hairstyle. This time, effort and tradition serves as a connection between generations of women - past, present, and future. Black hair styling has been a tool for personal and political expression throughout the ages.

Althea Murphy-Price's work explores the intricacies of Black hair care and its relation to feminine identity.

*“Much of my process is directly influenced by my personal experiences with maintaining my hair.”*

### ***Meet the Artist!***



An artist and professor living in Knoxville, TN. As an artist, her work has been recognized for its non-conventional approach to the traditions of printmaking. Murphy-Price began her studies in Fine Art at Spelman College before receiving her Master of Arts in Printmaking and Painting from Purdue University. She went on to study at Temple University's Tyler School of Art, where she earned her MFA. Murphy-Price has exhibited in venues throughout the country and internationally. She is an Associate Professor of Art at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville.

## ***Hair Care History***

Althea Murphy-Price's work speaks to Black hair care as a part of Black culture. This activity invites you to explore your family's culture and hair care history.

<https://www.u-ca.org/exhibition/salon-time>

### ***Essential Questions***

What did your hair look like when you were younger?

Who took care of your hair when you were younger?

Did you ever have problems with taking care of your hair?

What was your favorite way to style your hair?

Did you have any hairstyles you disliked?

Did you have any hairstyles your parents disliked?

What do you do to your hair these days?

What would you want your hair to look like if you could do anything to it?

Can you show me photos of your hair at different times in your life?

How did these hairstyles make you feel?

What do you think about my hair?



1. Have a conversation with your parents/guardians about their hair. Use the essential questions to guide the conversation.
2. Ask to see photos of them at different ages. Spend time with each photograph and ask them what they remember about their hairstyles and hair care routines from those moments.
3. Take time to reflect on your conversation. Did anything they say change your ideas of them? Of yourself? What surprised you about the conversation? What are some of your answers to the questions?