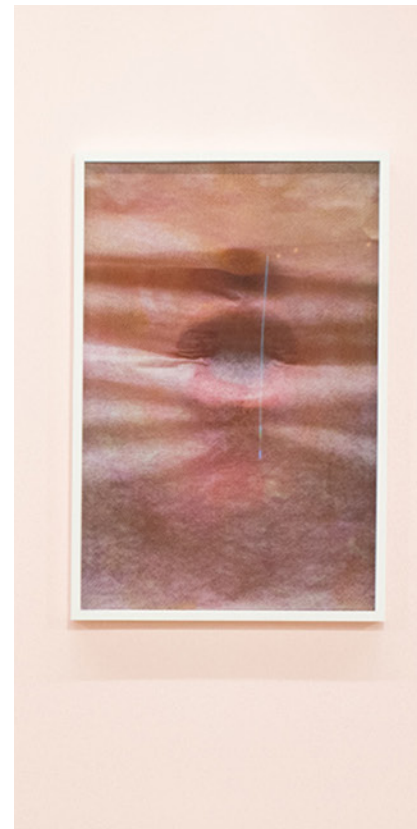


## ***“Sounds Good” Ella Weber, 2018***



After completing graduate school, Weber got a job slicing meat behind the deli counter at a chain grocery store. The artist merged her creative practice with her time on the clock, turning the deli into a studio. Exploring corporate culture, comfort and convenience, the polite interactions of a service industry job, and the realities artists face to balance their creative practice and their bills, Weber crafts a strange and playful world in which we question social ideals and aspirations.

*“Does Nebraska offer everyone this so-called good life? And is ‘good’ good enough?”*

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



Ella Weber intentionally maintains minimum wage jobs as a means to fuel her art, both financially and conceptually. In doing so, she utilizes various means to investigate the tension between consumer and viewer, performer and employee, artist and gallery. She earned a BFA from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and an MFA in printmaking from the University of Kansas. Weber has attended arts residencies across the country. The artist has exhibited nationally. She has taught at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, Pratt Munson-Williams-Proctor College of Art and Design, and as a mentor in Joslyn Art Museum’s Kent Bellows Mentorship program.

## *Exploring Social Norms*

In her artwork, Ella Weber explores social norms and customary interactions in suburban settings. This activity invites you to explore social norms in your own life.

<https://www.u-ca.org/exhibition/sounds-good>

### ***Essential Questions***

What is the social norm?

When do people do this?

Why do people do this?

How does it make you feel to do this norm?

What would it feel like to not do this norm?

What could be done instead of this action?



1. With a friend or family member, generate a list of social norms. Social norms are actions that are done by most people, routinely, in specific situations. Think about what things you do to be polite or to fit in. An example might be saying “bless you” when someone sneezes, or raising your hand in school to speak.
2. Break down a few of your social norms using the essential questions.
3. Discuss whether or not you think the social norms you chose are helpful or hurtful and why.