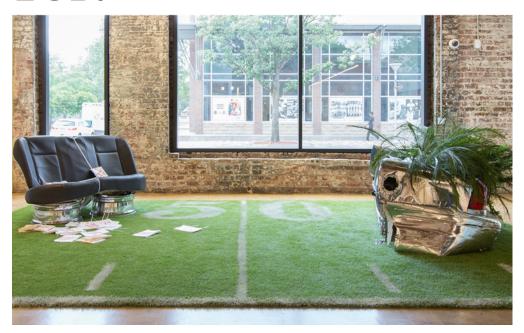# "Where We Land" Jordan Weber 2017

Where We Land explores violence against people of color in our society. Technology has made it so that violence in communities of color can be documented and shared more than ever before. Sadly, people's reactions to these stories reveal a terrible divide in our culture. Some people see the violence as a true, systemic problem that terrorizes and ruins communities, but other people justify the violence and minimize its horrible consequences. The art in this exhibition comments on the effects of racism on people and their environments.

Weber's work explores the relationship between people of color and their oppressors using found objects and plants as metaphors.

"Pure rage from experiencing complete opression."

Meet the Artist!

Jordan Weber (Des Moines, IA) attended Simpson College, Kirkwood College, and American University in Rome, Italy, and is an Artist Fellow and Project Grant recipient from the Iowa Arts Council. Weber's exhibitions include the Des Moines Art Center, Smack Mellon Gallery in Brooklyn, Gallery 38 in Los Angeles, La Esquina Gallery in Kansas City, and The Space Gallery in Chicago. His work has been reviewed by The Los Angeles Times, Hyperallergic, The Washington Times, and The Des Moines Register

Nature Metaphors

In his work, Jordan Weber uses plants to represent people's lives. This activity invites you to create your own metaphors for people you know.

https://www.u-ca.org/exhibition/where-we-land

Essential Questions:

What do they look like? Are the plants spiky, soft, colorful, plain, delicate, strong?

How do they grow? Do they need a lot of sun and water, can they grow anywhere, do they grow fast or slow?

What do the plants contribute? Perhaps clean air, flowers, fruit, nutrients for soil, food for insects and animals?

1. Gather examples of different plants. This can be done by taking a stroll outside and collecting samples of plants, researching images of plants, or simply drawing plants you know.

2. Think about the qualities of the plants you've assembled. Use the essential questions for guidance.

3. Think about people you know - family, friends, famous people - and decide which plants best fit each person based on your answers in step 2.

4. Share your creative pairings of people and plants with your family and friends. Explain your reasonings and ask if they agree with your choices. Talk about how these metaphors make you feel.