

## An Assemblage about Myself

<b>Essential Question</b>	How do artists use objects to portray who they are?
<b>Grades</b>	Kindergarten
<b>Time</b>	30–60 minutes
<b>Art Concepts</b>	Assemblage, found objects, composition, texture
<b>Materials</b>	Cardboard base (try cutting a cereal box into a flat sheet; if this is too flimsy, you could glue two cereal box sheets together), liquid glue, found objects, crayons or colored pencils, scissors
<b>Artwork in Focus</b>	<a href="#"><u>Keep for Old Memoirs, 1976 by Betye Saar</u></a>
<b>Talking about Art</b>	<p>Betye Saar is an African American artist who was born in Los Angeles in 1926. From an early age, she made art with things she collected and is well known for her work in <b>assemblage</b>. An assemblage is an artwork made of <b>found objects</b>. Found objects can be anything! Once you take an object and change it to make it art, it is a found object. Any object that you like and that has meaning for you works. Often they are items that you would not normally think of as “art.” Saar uses her assemblages to say something about being African American and about being a woman. She is 94 years old and still creates art.</p> <p>Look at Saar’s <i>Keep for Old Memoirs</i> for 30 seconds. What do you see? What found objects did the artist use? Why do you think she chose those items?</p> <p><b>Composition</b> is the way the artist chooses to arrange the artwork. How did Saar arrange her items in <i>Keep for Old Memoirs</i>? Are they straight in a row? Are some items placed on top of others? Which ones do you see on top of others? <b>Texture</b> is the way something feels. Look at the picture. Which items look like they might feel smooth or rough or bumpy?</p>
<b>Making Art</b>	<p>We are going to create our own assemblages using found objects.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Find a piece of cardboard to use as the base. Ask an adult to help you collect things for your assemblage.</li><li>2. Do you have a photograph? Do you have some fabric or ribbon, or a flower or charm? Do you have a picture from a magazine or an advertisement, or stickers or a drawing from a friend? Ask your family for things that belong to them to add to your assemblage.</li></ol>

3. You can color the cardboard base or cover it with paper first, if you like. Or you can leave it natural.
4. Place some of the found items on your base paper. Move them around until you like the way the composition looks.
5. Keep adding and moving things around until you think it is finished.
6. Is there any drawing you would like to make to add to your assemblage?
7. When you are ready, glue everything down.

### **Reflection**

Look at your beautiful assemblage. Why did you choose those items? Why do you like them? What do they mean to you? Do they remind you of a special person or a special time? Your artwork is made up of who you are, your family and friends, and your life. You are unique. There is only one you.

### **Curriculum Connections** California Arts Standards for Public Schools—Visual Arts

PK.VA:Cr1.2: Engage in self-directed, creative art-making. 1.VA:Cr1.2: Use observation and investigation in preparation for making a work of art. PK.VA:Cr2.1: Use a variety of art-making tools. K.VA:Re8: Interpret art by identifying subject matter and describing relevant details.

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