

# OBSERVE

This month's Social Justice Art for Teens video is all about developing the studio habit of mind - OBSERVE.

That means you will engage in a range of activities that will help strengthen your observation skills so that you can learn to observe like an artist and notice things that others may not. When we observe like an artist, we learn to look at things in new ways, notice details and use our observation skills to get inspired and engage with the world so that we can make powerful art works.

1. Choose one of these five prompts. (you can do more than one.)
2. Scroll thru this presentation to see the instructions for each prompt.
3. Develop YOUR thinking, bring your ideas to life and take a picture of it.
4. Share your work and use the #IncineratorGallery so that other social justice art warriors can see what you've created!
5. Reflect on your explorations!

## Focus

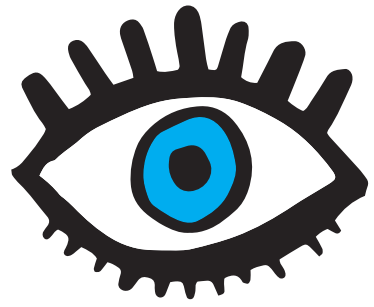
I can look more closely and see things that otherwise may not be seen. I can use my observation skills to notice details, observe and engage with the world, observe to get inspired, and observe to reflect and grow as an artist.

# An Artist's Social Justice Eye Spy

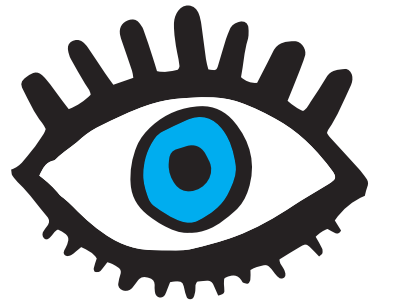
A part of observing as an artist is seeing things differently, or seeing things in a way that others cannot. This activity will have you delving into everyday objects around you and seeing them in a different way, through a different lense. You will bring a story to your handpicked, curated objects and create an arrangement that helps others to see that story.

## DO THIS...

1. Go on a scavenger hunt around your house and find an array of interesting objects that catch your eye. When you are choosing objects, think about their story. What could they communicate? Remember, we are social justice artists, so choose items that you think could represent a connection to social justice.
2. Use the planning sheet below to write some quick story points about each object.
3. Before you get arranging, watch the video and take a look at the incredible art work of Aline Houdé-Diebolt to get some inspiration
4. Arrange your pieces in a way that communicates a social justice story - like a social justice artist 'eye spy'.
5. Photograph your arrangement and write a statement about it.



# Social Justice Artist 'Eye Spy'



1

**OBJECT:**  
**STORY:**

2

**OBJECT:**  
**STORY:**

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**OBJECT:**  
**STORY:**

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**OBJECT:**  
**STORY:**

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**OBJECT:**  
**STORY:**

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**OBJECT:**  
**STORY:**

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**OBJECT:**  
**STORY:**

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**OBJECT:**  
**STORY:**

**Paste  
photograph  
HERE.**

## **Artist Statement Questions**

1. What is the title of your piece?
2. What are you expressing about social justice?
3. In one sentence, write the 'big idea' of your composition.
4. Why did you choose these objects to express that?
5. What elements did you think about when arranging your objects?
6. How did you use your observation skills when creating this piece?
7. How did it make you look at the objects differently?

# Social Justice Observational Drawing

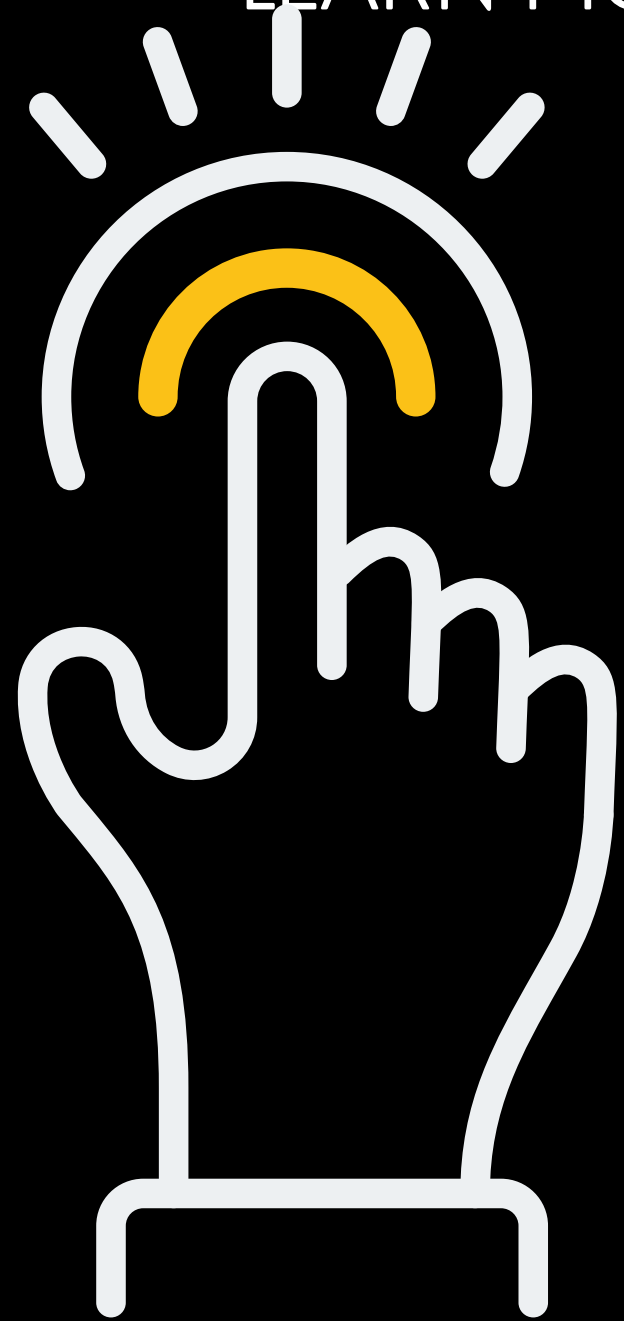
Observational drawing is a great exercise in seeing. When we look at something with the intent of drawing it, we tend to look more carefully than usual. We see, truly see, the shapes, the patterns, the perspective, the colors, the shadows, the contours, and how all of the details interact. It is also a great way to improve our drawing skills. For this activity, we will be doing an observational drawing with a social justice twist.

## DO THIS...

1. Choose 2-3 classic toys (try to find ones that you feel could be more inclusive) that you have in your home. If you do not have access to any, you can use images as reference. Arrange them in front of you, ready to draw.
2. Before you get started, watch this great little video with some handy tips on observational drawing - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3cSaKxVf\\_Aw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3cSaKxVf_Aw)
3. Use the tips to help you sketch the toys in front of you.
4. Once you are happy with your observational drawing, you are going to add your own social justice lense to the toys, and add features to them to make them more inclusive!
5. To get inspired for this, watch the video to learn about the work of artist and designer - Nickolay Lamm. You can also read more about him here - [https://www.boredpanda.com/lammily-normal-barbie-body-mark-stickers-nickolay-lamm/?utm\\_source=google&utm\\_medium=organic&utm\\_campaign=organic](https://www.boredpanda.com/lammily-normal-barbie-body-mark-stickers-nickolay-lamm/?utm_source=google&utm_medium=organic&utm_campaign=organic)

# OBSERVATIONAL DRAWING LINKS & LINKS TO THE WORK OF NICKOLAY LAMM

EXPLORE THESE LINKS TO HELP DEVELOP YOUR OBSERVATIONAL DRAWING SKILLS & TO  
LEARN MORE ABOUT THE WORK OF ARTIST & DESIGNER - NICKOLAY LAMM.



## Observational Drawing

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3cSaKxVf\\_Aw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3cSaKxVf_Aw)

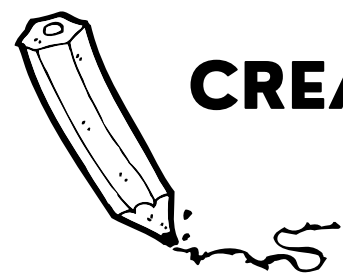
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=95IJUjnwUUA>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9nERh1X1Z68>

## Artist & Designer - Nickolay Lamm

[https://www.boredpanda.com/lammily-normal-barbie-body-mark-stickers-nickolay-lamm/?  
utm\\_source=google&utm\\_medium=organic&utm\\_campaign=organic](https://www.boredpanda.com/lammily-normal-barbie-body-mark-stickers-nickolay-lamm/?utm_source=google&utm_medium=organic&utm_campaign=organic)

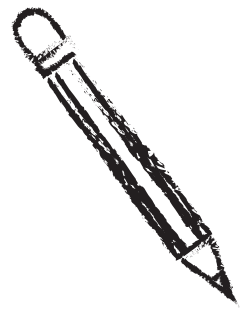
<https://nickolaylamm.com/>



**CREATE YOUR OBERVATIONAL DRAWING HERE.**

**POST A PHOTO OR IMAGE OF  
WHAT YOU ARE DRAWING HERE.**





**SKETCH YOUR REDESIGN HERE.**

**OBSERVE YOUR TOY OR OBJECT AND USE THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS TO HELP YOU RE-DESIGN IT TO BE MORE INCLUSIVE.**

**THINK ABOUT....**

- Why do you think it is important for toys or things we buy to be inclusive? (This will help shape your thinking!)
- What is not inclusive about your toy or object?
- Who is excluded by the way the toy or object is currently designed?
- How could you make it more inclusive for those who are excluded?
- What features or things could you add to the toy or object to make it more inclusive?

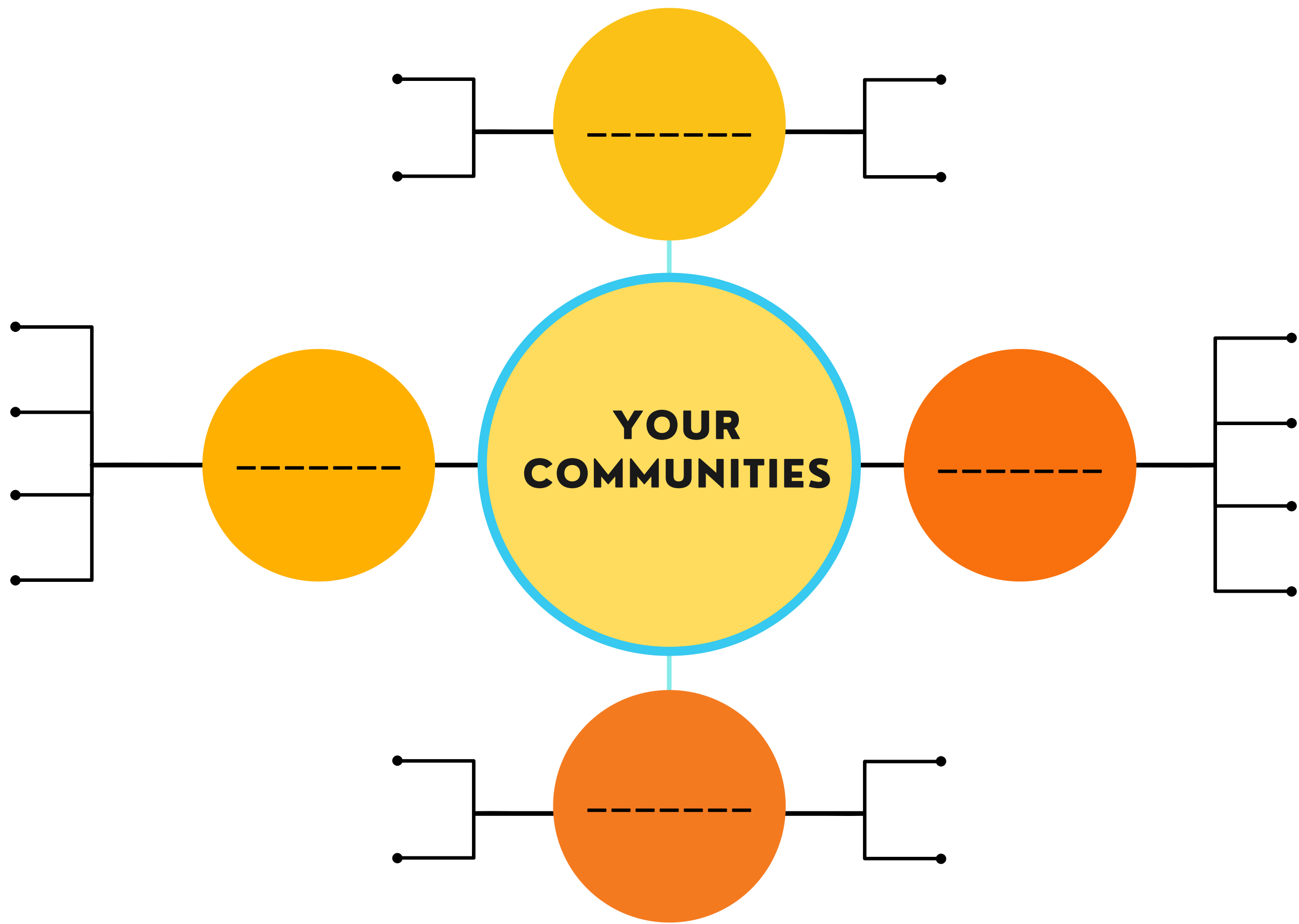
**LOOK AT THE WORK OF NICKOLAY LAMM IN THE VIDEO TO GET SOME INSPIRATION.**

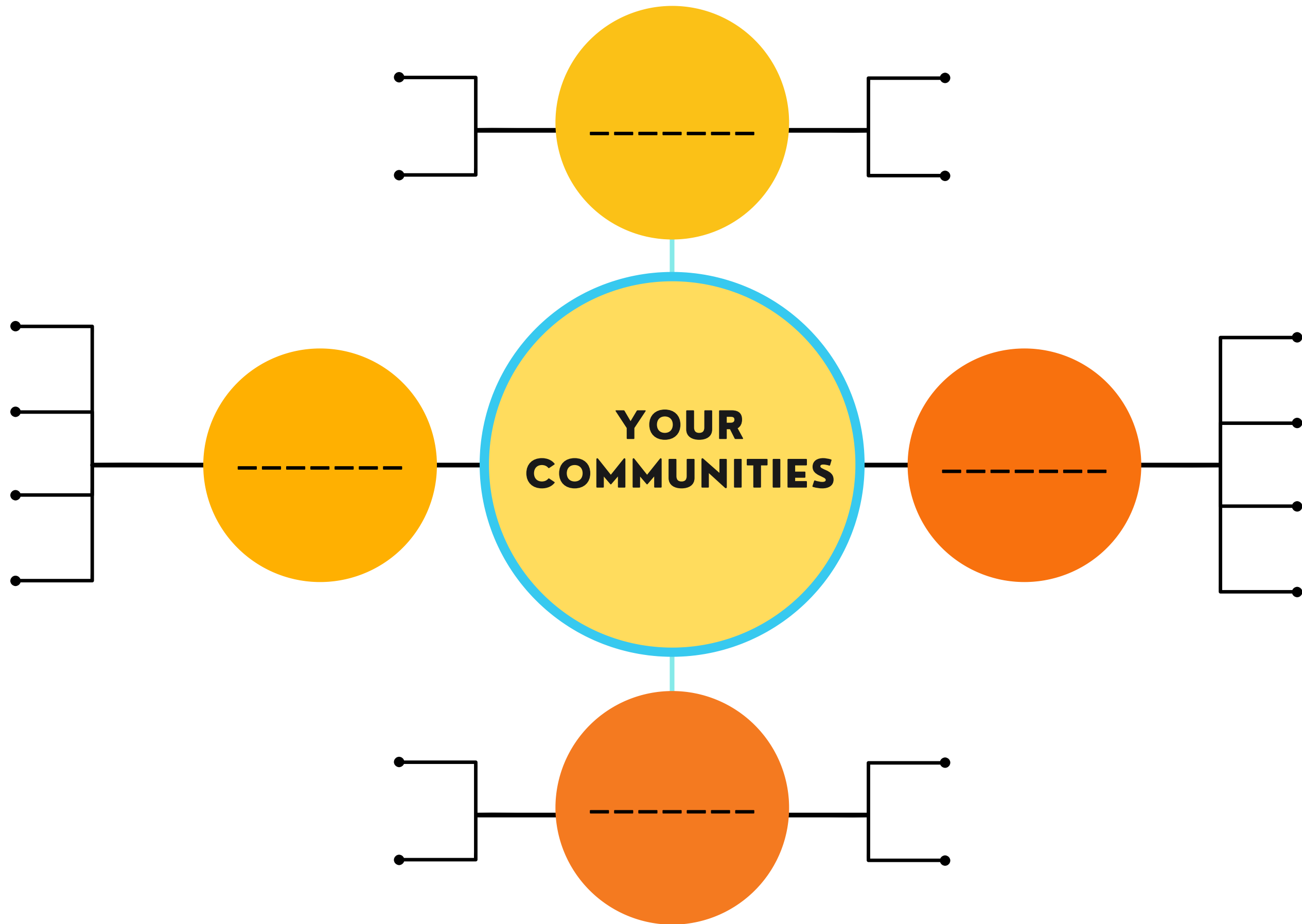
# Social Justice in your Community

As social justice artists, one of the greatest powers we have is being attentive and observant to the social justice issues all around us and using our art to communicate, educate and send strong messages about those injustices so that we can create change through our art. For this activity, you will be asked to switch on your extra sharp observation skills to look around your communities to see where the social injustices live.

## DO THIS...

1. Think about the communities you are a part of.
2. Use the mindmapping sheet to unpack those communities and what possible injustices you think exist, or have observed in those communities. Document, too, the equity you have observed or think exists in your communities. Think about what changes have been made to the communities to make them more equitable and inclusive for more marginalised communities.
3. Then go on a discovery walk within those communities you unpacked. Use a camera or digital device that can capture photos to document your observations.
4. Remember, you are an artist who is consistently developing their craft, so think about your photographic composition. You might like to watch this video to help develop your skills -  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VArlSvUuyr0>





**About this photo...**

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**About this photo...**

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# About this photo...

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# About this photo...

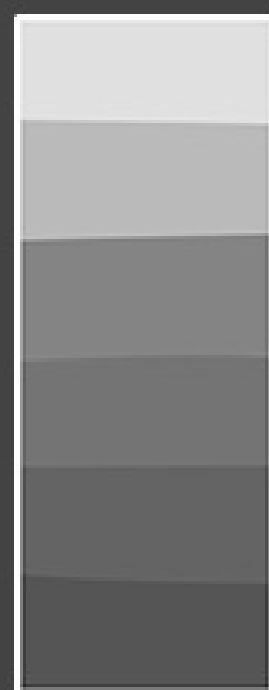
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# Social Justice in the Shadows

Observing light and shadows is an important part of observational drawing and also helps us to improve form and three dimensionality in our drawings. This next activity is another observational drawing activity with a bit of a social justice twist, and a whole lot of creativity too. Through this activity, you will explore the shadows that fall from different objects, learn about shadows, discover an amazing artist who turns shadows into entirely new things and get creative yourself!

## DO THIS...

1. First, use the diagram on the next page to familiarise yourself with the different terminology of light and shadows in drawing.
2. You might also like to watch this great little video about training your artist eye to see light and shadows in everyday life - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lKmGro0Zqxw>
3. Next, I want you to find some objects and their shadows and draw them! Don't colour the shadows in, leave them as a transparent white shape.
4. To get inspired for our social justice twist, watch the video to get to know the amazing work of Vincent Bal.
5. Using inspiration from Vincent's work, you are going to transform the shadows of your observational drawings into 'social justice' images, which is going to stretch both your thinking and your creativity.



HIGHLIGHT

DIRECT LIGHT

HALFTONE

REFLECTED LIGHT

SHADOW

CORE SHADOW

DIRECT LIGHT

HALFTONE

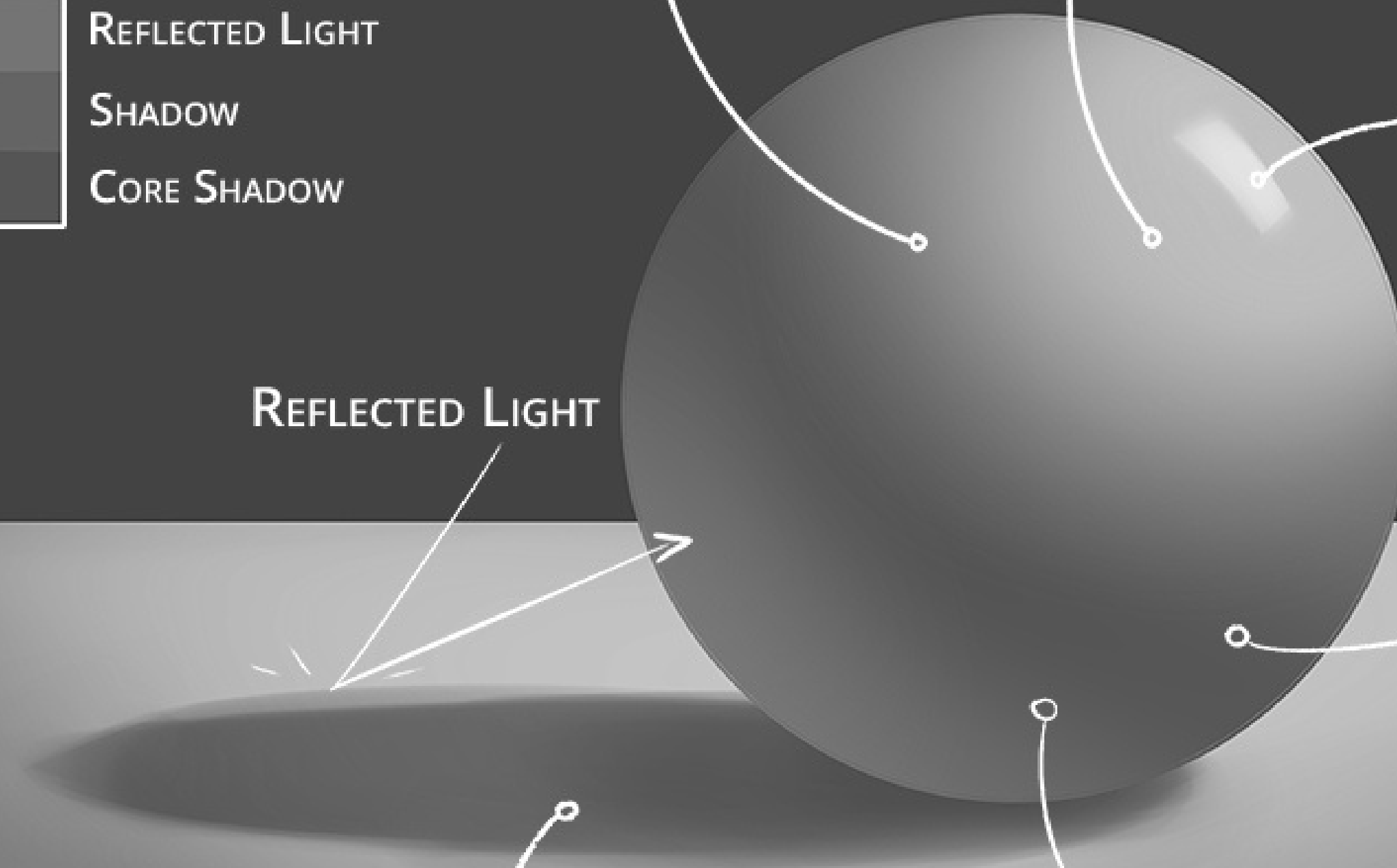
HIGHLIGHT

REFLECTED LIGHT

CORE SHADOW

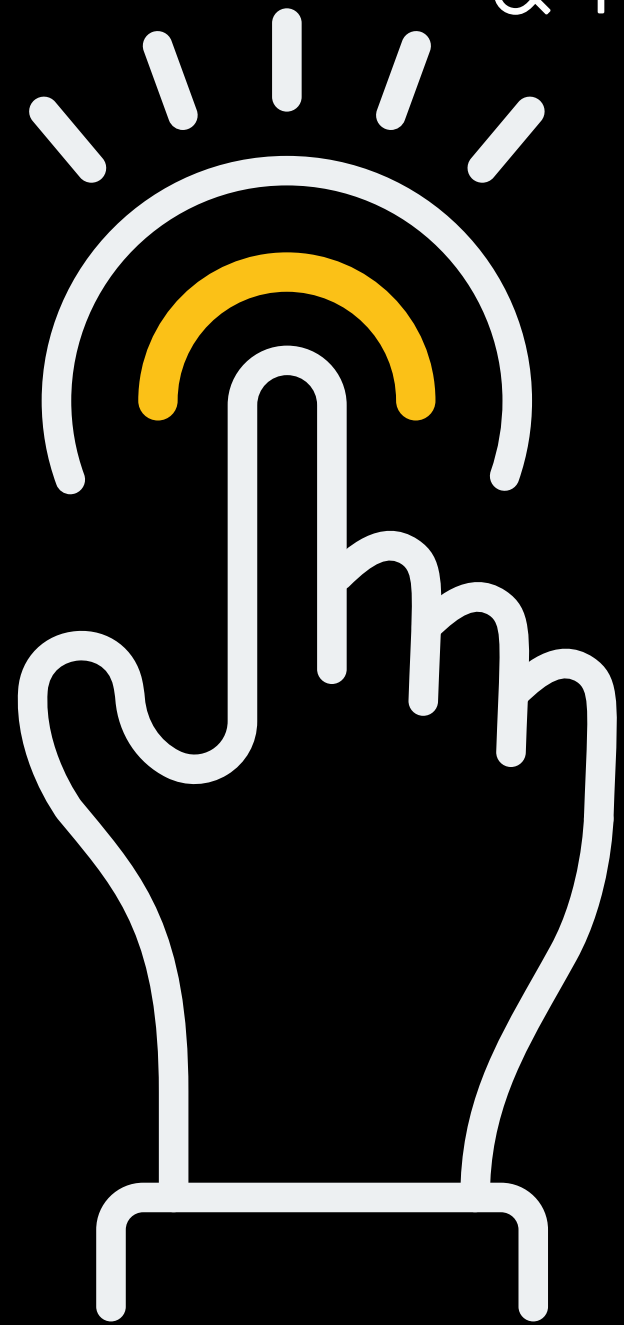
SHADOW

CAST SHADOW



# DRAWING LIGHT AND SHADOWS & THE WORK OF ARTIST VINCENT BAL

EXPLORE THESE LINKS TO LEARN MORE ABOUT OBSERVING LIGHT & SHADOWS  
& TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE WORK OF ARTIST - VINCENT BAL



Observing Light & Shadows in Drawing

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lKmGro0Zqpw>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FmsSbpsB5Vs&t=570s>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r5\\_WogFt14Q](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r5_WogFt14Q)

Artist & Designer - Nickolay Lamm

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JX-1D663QtA>



**SKETCH YOUR SOCIAL JUSTICE  
SHADOWS HERE.**

**SKETCH YOUR SOCIAL JUSTICE  
SHADOWS HERE.**





**SKETCH YOUR SOCIAL JUSTICE  
SHADOWS HERE.**

**SKETCH YOUR SOCIAL JUSTICE  
SHADOWS HERE.**



# HOW TO BE A SOCIAL JUSTICE OBSERVER & WARRIOR OF THE WORLD

For this activity, we will be seeking inspiration from the incredible artist, writer, creative and activist – Keri Smith – and her amazing book 'How to Be an Explorer of the World'. You will create your own Zine about 'How to be a Social Justice Observer and Warrior of the World'.

## DO THIS...

1. First, it is a must that you learn all you can about the artist, writer, observer, creative and activist - Keri Smith - if you don't already know about her.
2. Explore all the links on the next page about Keri Smith to draw inspiration from her work, particularly her book - How to be an Explorer of the World.
3. Next, watch the video - also included on the links page - to learn how to make a zine.
4. Using your inspiration from Keri Smith, and all you learned, I want you to make a zine around the topic of 'How to Be a Social Justice Observer and Warrior of the World?'
5. You can use the planning sheets below to help you plan out ideas for your zine before you start creating it!
6. Then, watch the video or look at the diagram on how to make a one page zine and get creating - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sCsVKy4GFnE>

# LEARN ALL ABOUT KERI SMITH

WATCH THESE VIDEOS & CLICK ON THESE LINKS TO LEARN ALL ABOUT THE  
AMAZING KERI SMITH & HER WORK



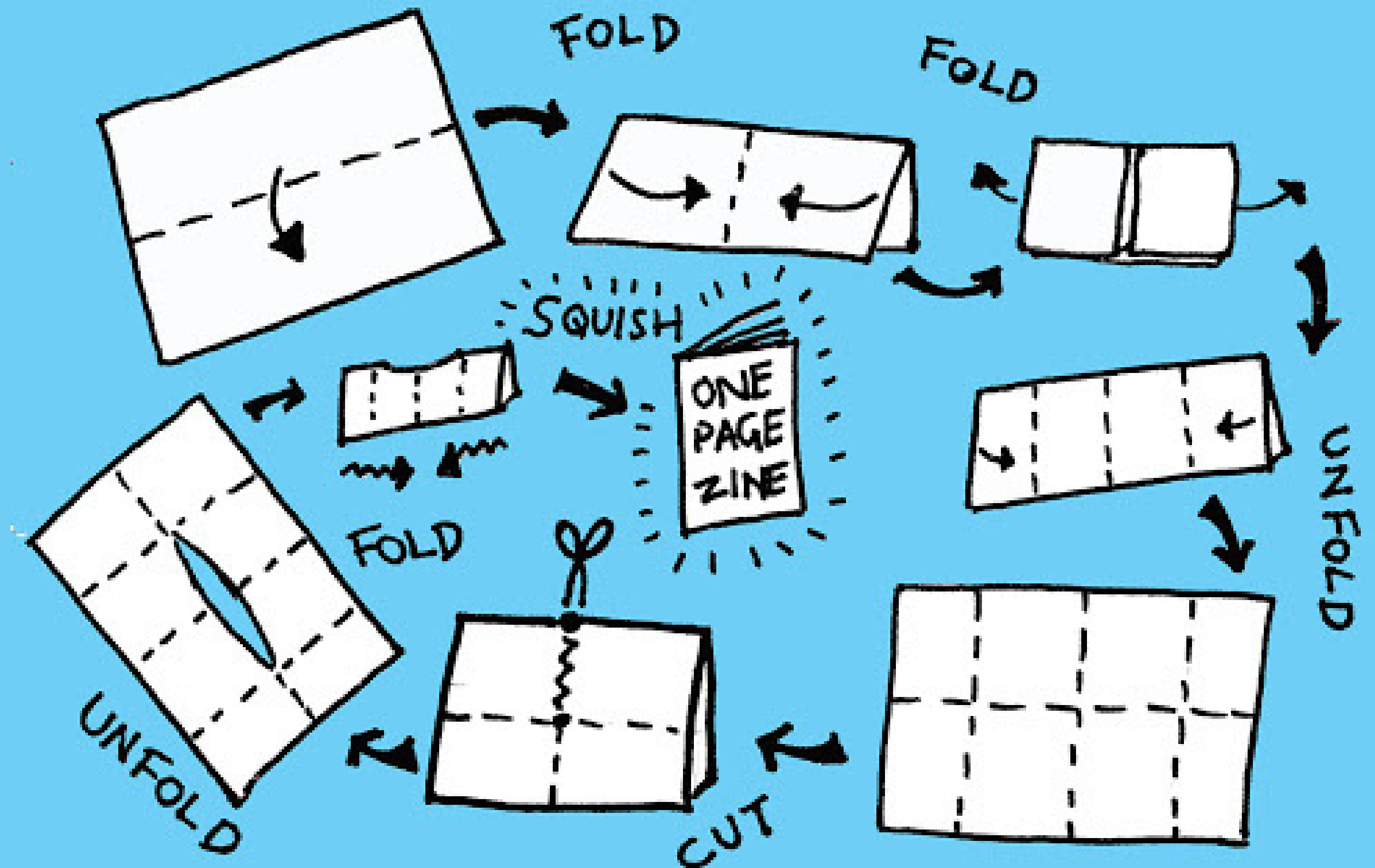
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t5RDGSP0V-c>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nAJhHS7tZMo&t=56s>

<http://www.kerismith.com/>

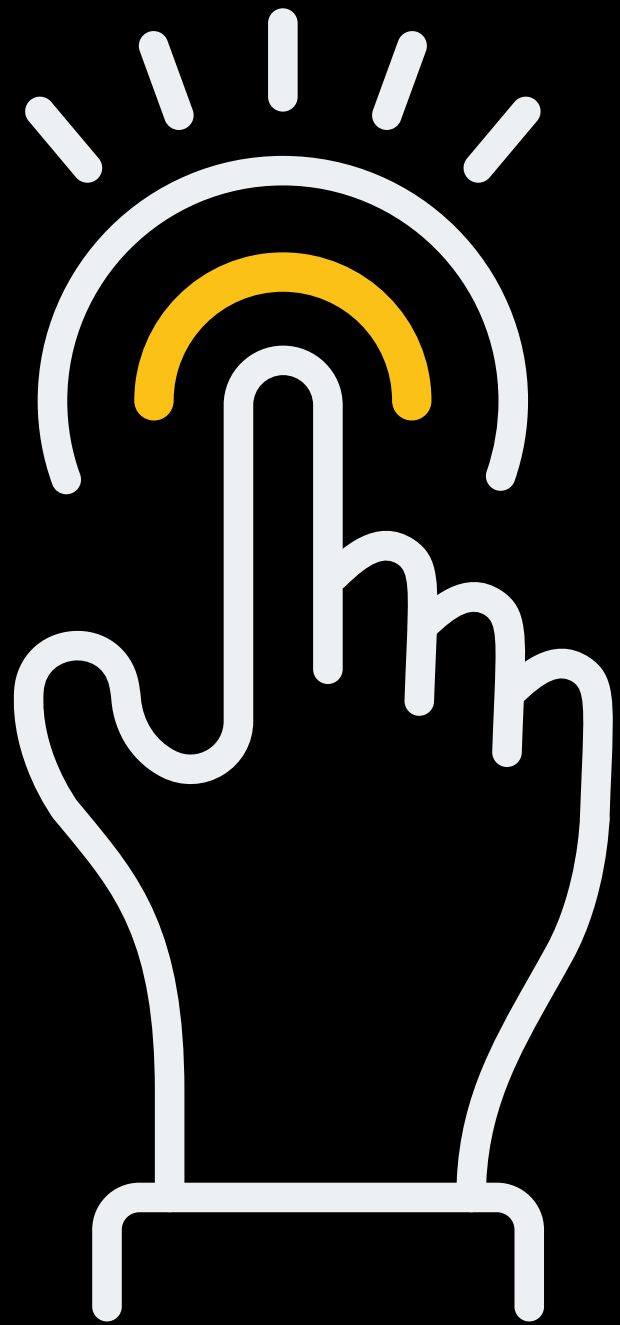
<https://www.susannahconway.com/2009/09/my-creative-life-keri-smith/>

# HOW TO MAKE A ZINE FROM ONE PIECE OF PAPER



# ALL ABOUT ZINES & ZINE MAKING

WATCH THESE VIDEOS TO LEARN WHAT ZINES ARE AND HOW TO MAKE THEM

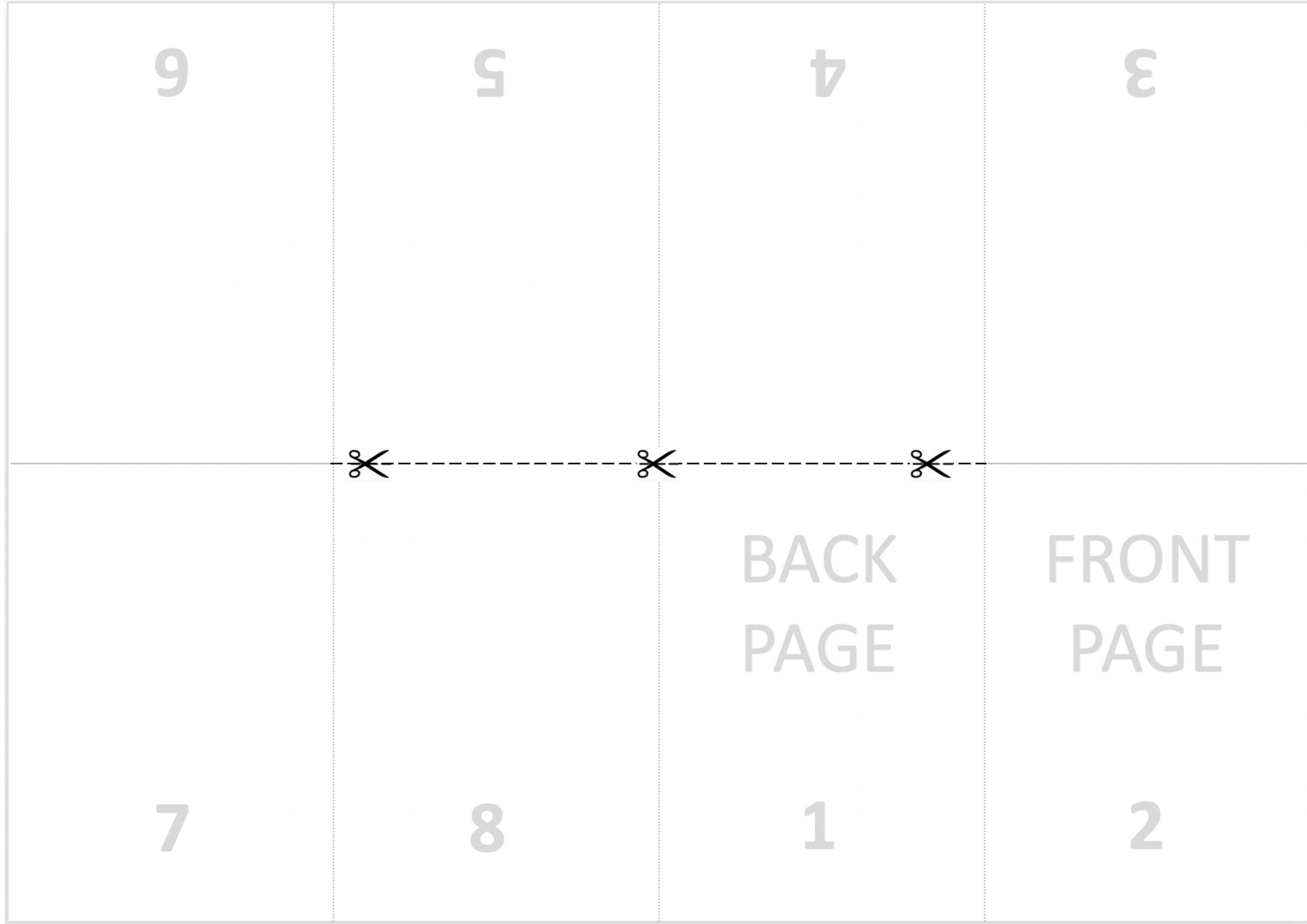


<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9lNUang4oMA>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZjjylE3SPj8>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nAJhHS7tZMo&t=56s>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lxqr9e3wCxl>



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BACK  
PAGE

FRONT  
PAGE

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# REFLECT

Before you wrap up your Social Justice Art 'Observe' explorations today, make sure you take the time to REFLECT on your explorations. REFLECTING is one of the eight Studio Habits of Mind, and a super important one for helping us grow as artists. As you reflect on the work you have done here, think about the following questions:

1. Which observe exercise helped you develop, sharpen or use your observational skills the most?
2. Which exercise challenged you the most?
3. Which exercise did you enjoy the most and WHY?
4. What are some other ways you feel you could use or develop your observation skills as a social justice artist?

# SHARE

Lastly, don't forget to share your work. Sharing your work can be a great way to get feedback. Take some photos of your final expressing explorations and share them with those around you. Don't forget - if you share them to social media, you the following hashtag to connect you to Incinerator Gallery and other Social Justice Teen artists!

# #IncineratorGallery