This DIY Guide is presented as part of Slow Motion, Slow Build, Slow Read, a workshop facilitated on April 6, 2022, by CJ Mitchell and Adjua Gargi Nzinga Greaves, based on Projects: Kahlil Robert Irving. Taking inspiration from Irving’s collage Black and Yellow - CAUTION, this guide encourages participants to slow down their viewing process and consider the details that comprise a whole work of art.

Through close looking, discussion, collaging, and reflective writing prompts, participants will examine and engage with the work of Kahlil Robert Irving to generate ideas that they will translate into 2D, 3D, and/or written forms of expression in the form of collages and poems.

No prior art-making or creative writing experience is necessary.
What do you discover about a piece of art when you slow down your viewing process?

How might you transform your discoveries into your own work of art?

**Part 1**
Slow Motion will provide time to look at Kahlil Robert Irving's *Black and Yellow - Caution* as a whole and in quadrants.

**Part 2**
Slow Build will offer a space to create collages inspired by the deep study of *Black and Yellow - Caution*.

**Part 3**
Slow Read will explore collaging methods via poetic devices.

**Suggested materials for Slow Motion and Slow Read**
- Pencil or pen (for Parts 1 & 3)
- Paper (for Parts 1 & 3)

**Suggested materials for Slow Build**
To make a print collage:
- Pencil or pen
- Paper (heavy-weight paper is ideal but not necessary)
- Printed material for collage such as magazines, newspapers, recycled paper, or screenshot images from social media or the internet that are printed out
- Glue or glue sticks
- Scissors
- Optional: Modge podge (if you want to seal the collage; you can also use glue and water)

To make a digital collage:
- Mobile phone or computer with internet access
- [photocollage.com](http://photocollage.com) or [photopea.com](http://photopea.com)

**Vocabulary**

**Collage**
A piece of art made by sticking and layering various materials such as photographs and pieces of paper or fabric onto a surface

**Juxtaposition**
Two or more things seen or placed close together, producing contrasting effects

**Composition**
The nature of something's ingredients or constituents; how a whole thing or mixture is made up
PART 1: SLOW MOTION

See *Black and Yellow – CAUTION* in full and in quadrants.

**Step 1**
For one minute, look at *Black and Yellow – CAUTION* in full.
Prompt: Describe *Black and Yellow – CAUTION* in one word.

**Step 2**
Look closer and take another collective inventory of this artwork.

**Step 3**
Spend three minutes looking at each quadrant.
The questions below can guide your exploration:
- What do you notice when you look more closely?
- As you zoom in on each quadrant, does the way you’re looking change?
- Are you noticing overall themes within Kahil’s work?
PART 1: SLOW MOTION

View the Slow Motion responses from participants during the Slow Motion, Slow Motion, Slow Read | Workshop.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bumble Bee</th>
<th>Mood</th>
<th>Parody</th>
<th>Cultures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunflower</td>
<td>Morning</td>
<td>Royalty</td>
<td>Power</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vibrant</td>
<td>Taxi movement</td>
<td>Media</td>
<td>Screenshots</td>
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<tr>
<td>Awake</td>
<td>sassy bumble bee</td>
<td>Irony</td>
<td>Who have we walked over?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glory</td>
<td>pop culture</td>
<td>Purple</td>
<td>some kind of dream</td>
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<tr>
<td>Altar</td>
<td>music memories</td>
<td>Fierce</td>
<td>Charlottesville</td>
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<tr>
<td>New York</td>
<td>Gone</td>
<td>Native American</td>
<td>Duplication</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Slavery</td>
<td>Suffering</td>
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<td>Visible</td>
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<td>pop culture</td>
<td>Signal</td>
<td>Layers</td>
<td>black panthers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Springtime</td>
<td>For sale</td>
<td>Eyes</td>
<td>Changing opinions</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**PART 2: SLOW BUILD**

**How-To: Print Collage**

**Step 1**
Gather images from social media. Go through the social media feeds or websites you frequent. Think about newspapers, magazines, and articles you have recently encountered. Take screenshots with your phone or computer. Save these images to a central location if on a phone or computer.

**Step 2**
Print out the images and cut the content out by removing any excess paper around the edges.

**Step 3**
Arrange your content on your surface. Think about the layout and aesthetics. There is no one way to construct your collage. Arrange your content any way you like—upside down, side by side, sideways. Some images may be repeated several times.

**Step 4**
Once you are satisfied with your arrangement, glue the images to your surface. Seal your content and tack down the edges with any water-based sealant or a glue and water mixture.

**How-To: Digital Collage**

**Step 1**
Gather your images from social media. Go through the social media feeds or websites that you frequent. Think about newspapers, magazines, and articles you have recently encountered. Take screenshots with your phone or computer. Save these images to a central location if on a phone or computer.

**Step 2**
Follow instructions for photocollage.com or photopea.com. Select your layout and arrange your content.
PART 2: SLOW BUILD

Explore the Slow Build collages created by participants during Slow Motion, Slow Motion, Slow Read | Workshop.

Chloé Alterwain

Christina Piecha

Marcela Vergara

Deepa Pant

K. Roig
Step 1
Introducing Gwendolyn Brooks and Terrance Hayes

The relationship between “We Real Cool” by Gwendolyn Brooks (Harper Collins, 1959) and “The Golden Shovel” by Terrence Hayes (Penguin Books, 2010), two poems written by Black poets born in the United States in the twentieth century, provides an example of a literary arts collage.

Step 2
Listen to a recording of Gwendolyn Brooks reading “We Real Cool.”

Step 3
Read Brooks’s poem next to an excerpt of Hayes’s poem. Since the poem is short, listen twice. Let your eyes move between the poems.

The yellow text highlights how Hayes’s collages from Brooks’s poem. Do you see a relationship between the two poems?

Learn more about the Golden Shovel poetic form.

Step 4
Listen to Kahlil Robert Irving discuss the inspirations and key concepts for his exhibition. You can access the transcript through the same link.

Step 5
As you listen to Kahlil Robert Irving speak about his exhibition, write down the words or phrases that stand out to you.

Step 6
Now listen to the recording a second time. Select five words/phrases from Prompt 1 that resonate with you.

Step 7
Use the five words/phrases you selected in Step 3 to collage your own poem.

Step 8
Write a five-line poem with each of your five words/phrases as the final word in the line.

Step 9
Read a poem by Adjua Gargi Nzinga Greaves as an example. Irving’s words are in yellow and Greaves’s words are in white text.
PART 3: SLOW READ

Read the poems submitted by participants during Slow Motion, Slow Motion, Slow Read | Workshop

Ann Owens
I walk anchored in memories
the architecture of my mind
is complex
with space for joy
meaning
memorial

Suzanna Williams
we try to walk with JOY; Unending MEMORIES push us to extreme EXPERIENCES building fullness of MEANING with every step of EXISTENCE.

Paulette Miller
traverse a landscape
of communities, time
a car driving
a radio cleaning
expansiveness

Linda Jarrett
Precariously anchored, the photographic memorial of both my mother and my father wrapped in colonial material
REFLECTIONS

While this DIY guide is meant as a roadmap, we want to emphasize exploration and experimentation over creating a perfect final product.

What resonated with you from what you saw, made, and experienced today?

RESOURCES

Follow Adjua Gargi Nzinga Greaves’s work
agng.info/

Read more about CJ Mitchell’s work as an educator
camstl.org/news/the-new-language-of-education/

Learn more about Kahlil Robert Irving
www.kahlilirving.com/

See an image of the work Black and Yellow – CAUTION for a closer look
press.moma.org/exhibition/kahlil_robert_irving/#gallery-3

Use photocollage.com to try out your own digital collage

Read Gwendolyn Brooks’s poem “We Real Cool”

Read Terrance Hayes’s poem “The Golden Shovel”

Learn more about the Golden Shovel poetic form
writersdigest.com/write-better-poetry/golden-shovel-poetic-form

Listen to Kahlil Robert Irving speak about his exhibition
moma.org/audio/playlist/319/4132

Listen to “Black and Yellow” by Wiz Khalifa
youtube.com/watch?v=UePtoxDhJSw