



EN
CARNIVAL and PERFORMANCE ART
MAS'
of the CARIBBEAN

Name: _____



The National Gallery of the Cayman Islands
15 January 2016 - 26 March 2016

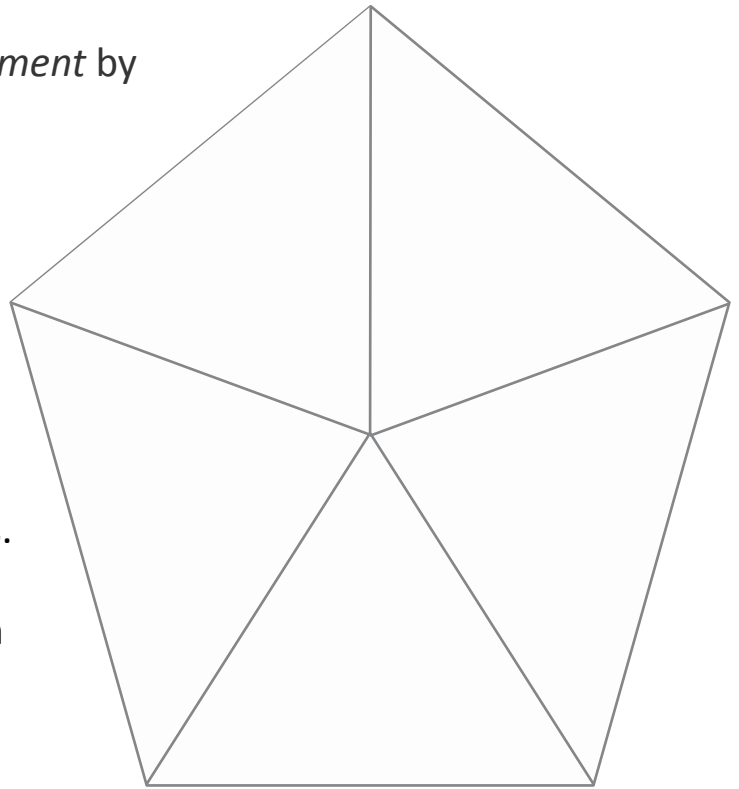


Activity Sheet

Exhibition curated by Claire Tancons and Krista Thompson;
organised by the Contemporary Arts Center (CAC), New Orleans
and Independent Curators International (ICI), New York.

★ **FIND** *Actor Boy: Fractal Engagement* by Charles Campbell.

★ This piece was influenced by inventor Buckminster Fuller's idea of a utopian community that included everyone. Fuller also designed the geodesic sphere that the artist replicates. On the sphere are images of John Crow birds that have been painted white to further symbolize a utopia.



★ **FIND** *Give And Take* by Hew Locke. This artist addresses the tensions between the participants of the Notting Hill Carnival and the residents of the London neighbourhood.

★ **THINK** How your community is changing. What can you do to help ensure these changes remain positive?



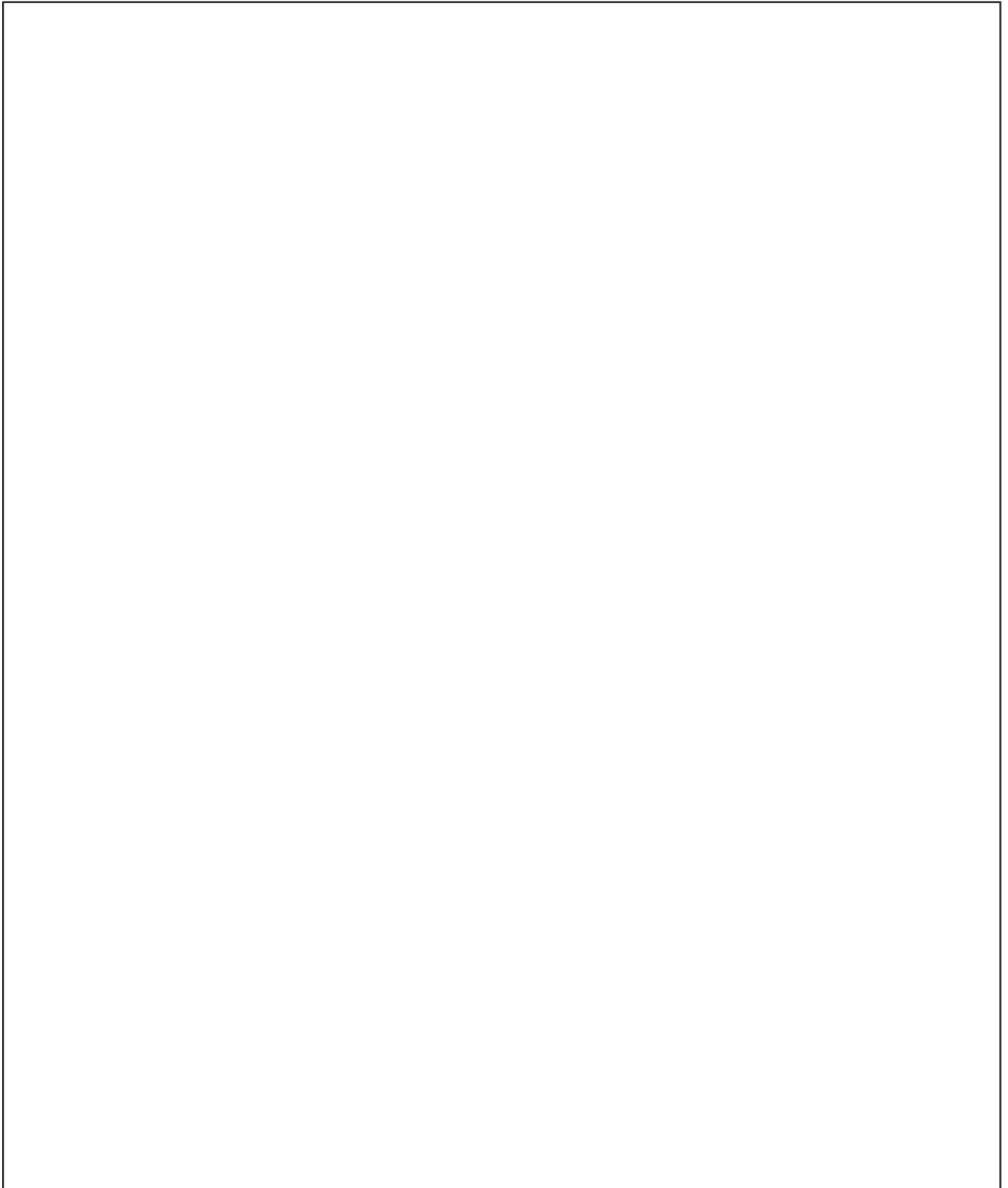
Image: John Beadle (2015), *Inside-out, Outside-in (detail)*, from the collection of the artist

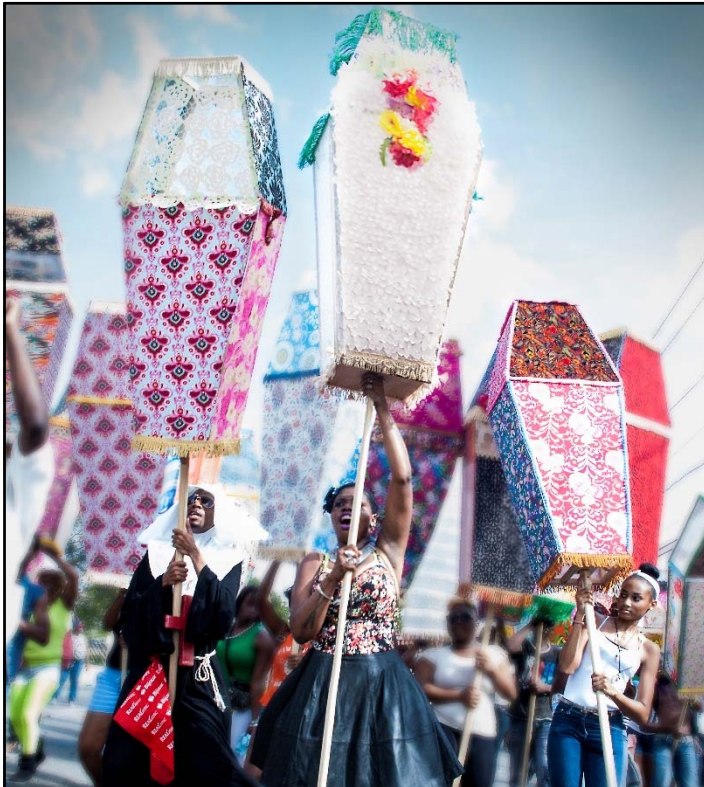
★ **FIND** *Inside-out, Outside-in* by John Beadle.

The artist uses window screens, breezeblock and wrought iron patterns to illustrate the barrier between new and old Bahamians, people participating in the Junkanoo parade and the spectators. This artwork also symbolizes the social divisions in the Bahamas.

★ **THINK** of divisions within your community.

Design a pattern using shapes that represent these barriers.





★ **FIND** *Invisible Presence: Bling Memories* by Ebony Patterson.

★ **IDENTIFY** what the colourful coffins symbolise.

★ **THINK** how you can use carnival as a platform to express and highlight a social issue in your community. What would you say?



★ **FIND** *POSITONS+POWER* by Marlon Griffith.

The artist uses this piece to convey the negativity of surveillance in his community during carnival.

★ **WHAT** emotions does this piece evoke? Think of previous power struggles within your community and the effect they have had.

★ DID YOU KNOW?

Hundreds of years ago, Catholics in Italy started the tradition of a costume festival before the first day of Lent. As Catholics do not eat meat during Lent, they called their festival, carnevale — which means “to put away the meat.”

Carnivals in Italy became famous and the practice spread to France, Spain, and other European countries. As the French, Spanish, and Portuguese began to explore and inhabit the Americas they brought with them their tradition of Carnival.

Caribbean carnival started in the 1700s by French settlers. It started as fancy balls where the wealthy put on masks, wigs, and beautiful dresses and danced all night. Slaves were not allowed to the balls, and held their own carnivals in their backyards. They made their own rituals and folklore, and imitated the behavior at the masked balls.

Carnival became a way for slaves to express their power as individuals, and their rich cultural traditions. After 1838 (when slavery was abolished), the freed slaves began to have their own carnival celebrations in the streets that grew more and more elaborate. These carnivals soon became more popular than the balls.

Today, carnival in the Caribbean is like a mirror that reflects the cultures of the many immigrants who came to the Caribbean as indentured slaves.

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★ **WATCH** the following video: <http://bit.ly/1OELKqI> to learn more about the history of carnival in the Caribbean.