

Eastern Parkway Library

Conceptual Design Presentation

NYC Percent for Art Program

Oasa DuVerney, Artist

Previous Artwork

Oasa DuVerney



NYC Percent for Art Program
Oasa DuVerney, Artist
Allied works / BPL / DDC / DCLA

Eastern Parkway Library (LBM18EPOH)
July 19, 2021 | Conceptual Design Review
Public Design Commission



Previous Artwork

LEFT: We Are A Conspiracy, 2021
RIGHT: You, Me and Tomorrow Hold Hands, 2020
Aldrich Museum, Fairfield CT



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Eastern Parkway Library (LBM18EPOH)
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Previous Artwork

LEFT: The Foot On My Neck Is Part Of A Body, 2020
Aldrich Museum Fairfield, CT
RIGHT: Veiled Child, 2019, BRIC Brooklyn NY



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Previous Artwork

BLACK POWER WAVE TEN FOOT WAVE, 2019
BRIC Brooklyn NY



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Previous Artwork

BLACK POWER WAVE: DRAWING FOR PROTEST,
2016, Welancora Gallery
Brooklyn, NY



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Previous Artwork

BLACK POWER WAVE: WALL DRAWING, 2019
BRIC, Brooklyn NY



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Previous Artwork

Brooklyn Hi-Art Machine
Those Who Create The Circumstances
Crown Heights, Brooklyn, NY





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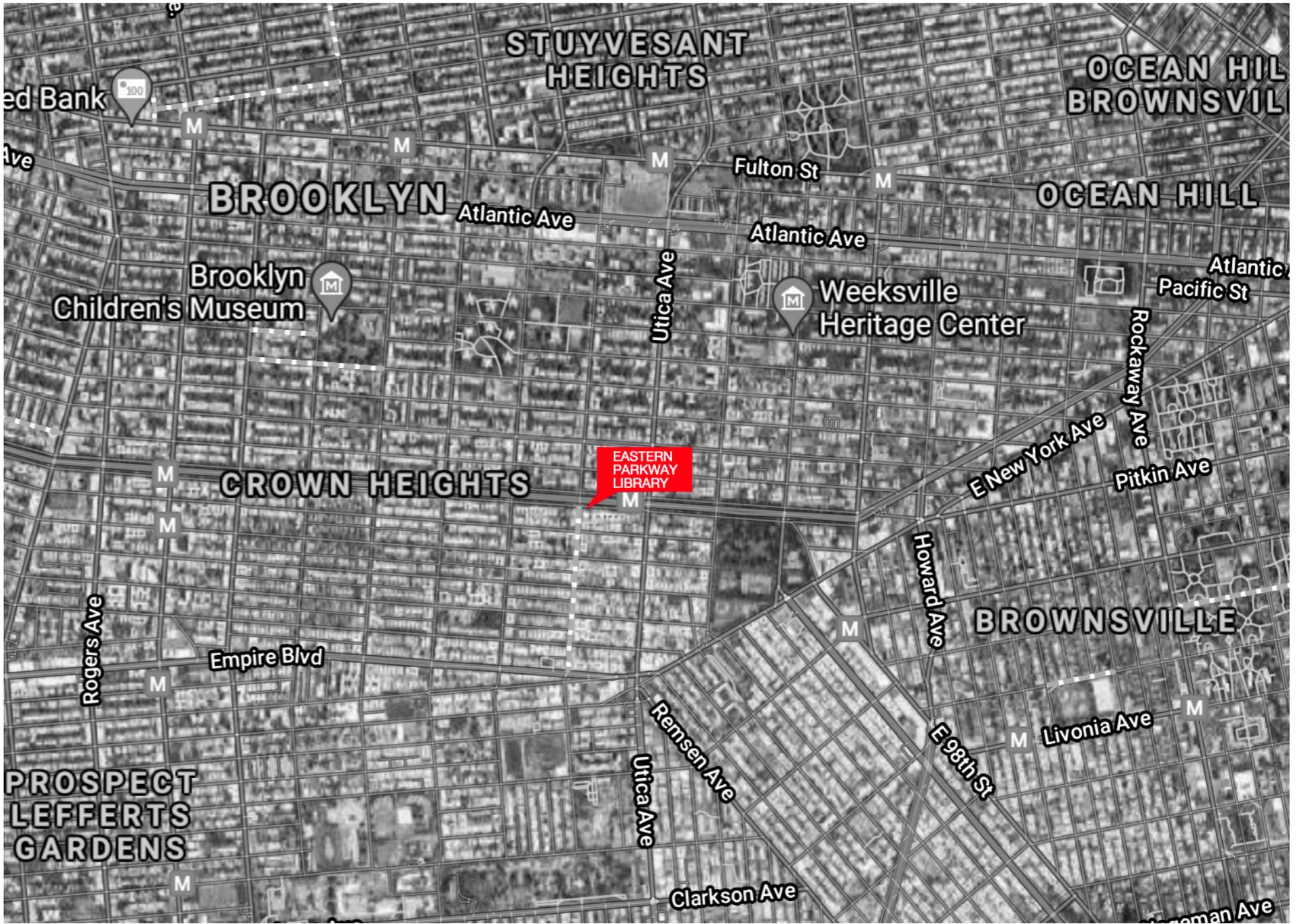
Previous Artwork

Brooklyn Hi-Art Machine
The Leftovers, What is left, 2020
Prospect Park Bandshell, Brooklyn, NY

Project Site

Eastern Parkway Library Major Renovations



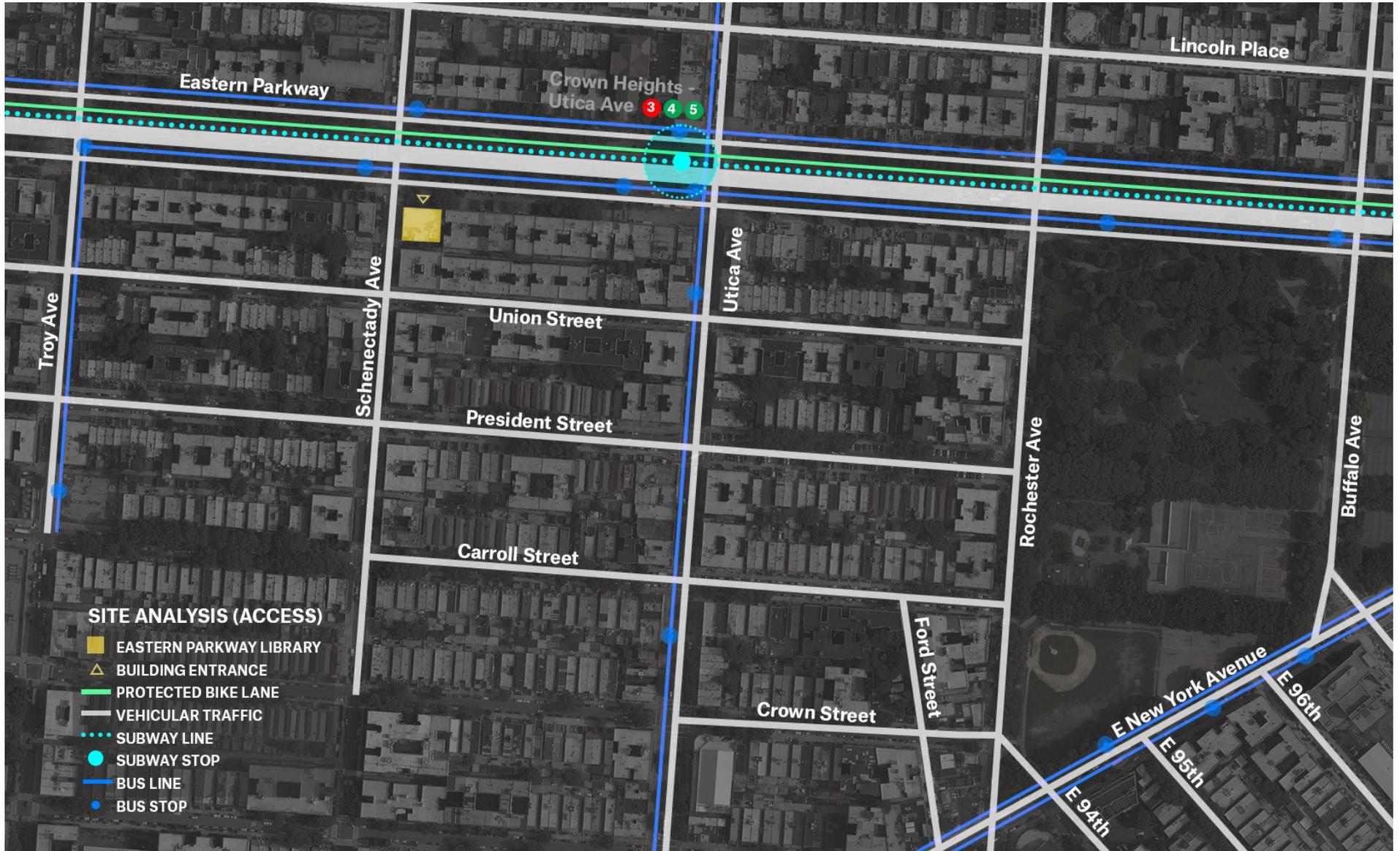


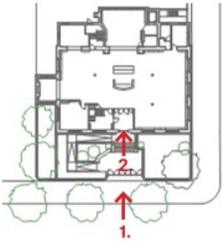
NYC Percent for Art Program
 Oasa DuVerney, Artist
 Allied works / BPL / DDC / DCLA

Eastern Parkway Library (LBM18EPOH)
 July 19, 2021 | Conceptual Design Review
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Project Site
 Scale: Not to scale

Location Plan
 Neighborhood Map

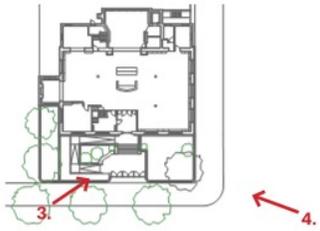




1. NORTH ELEVATION - MAIN ENTRY ON EASTERN PARKWAY



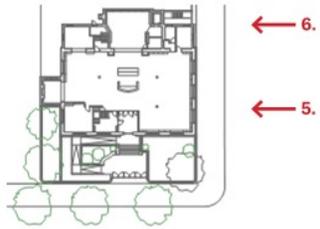
2. MAIN ENTRY ON EASTERN PARKWAY



3. NORTHEAST CORNER - VIEW FROM EASTERN PARKWAY SIDEWALK



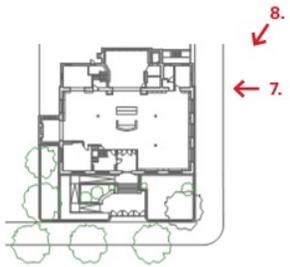
4. NORTHWEST CORNER - VIEW FROM SUBWAY ENTRANCE



5. WEST ELEVATION ON SCHENECTADY - MAIN READING ROOM



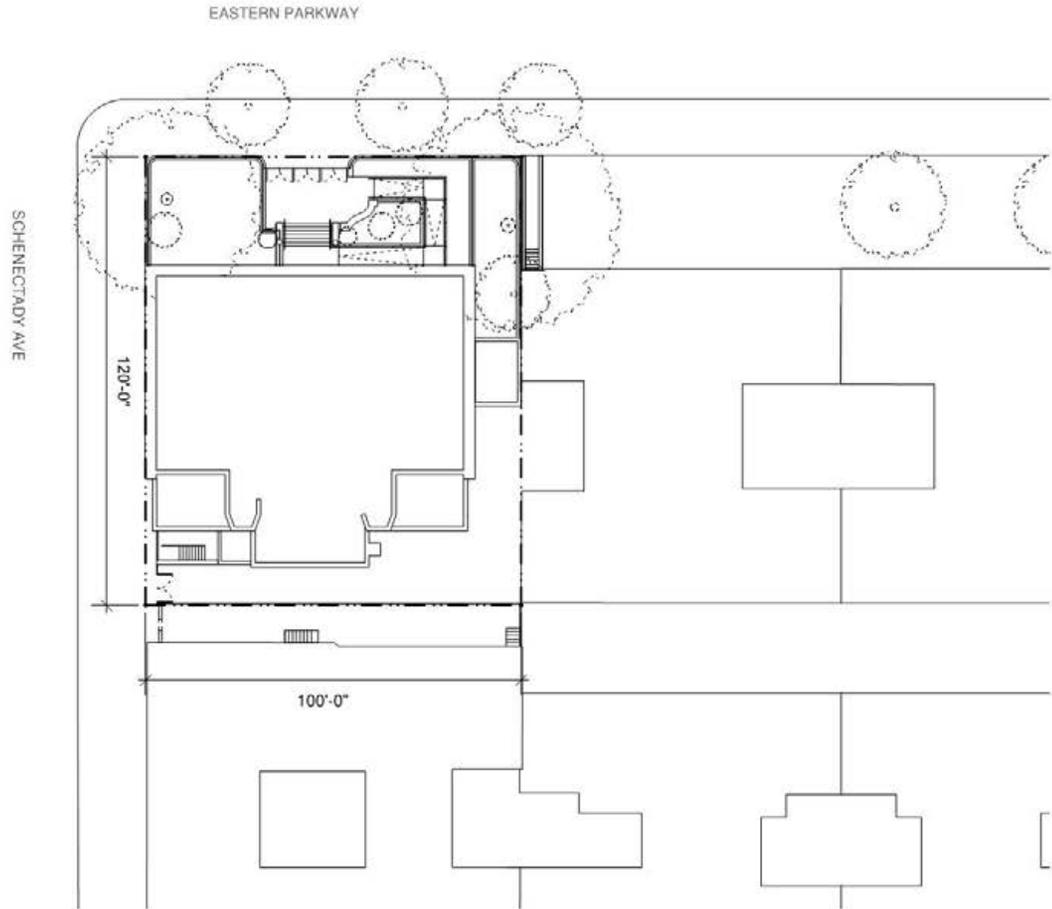
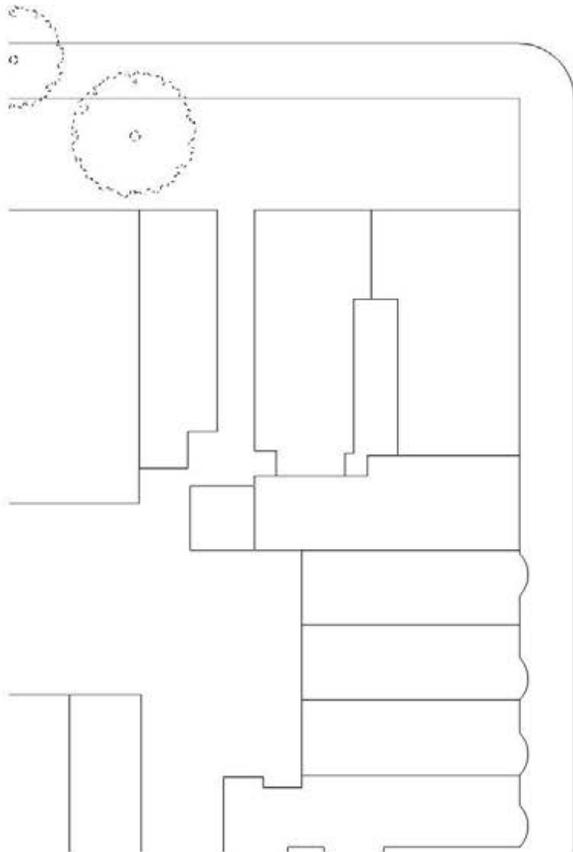
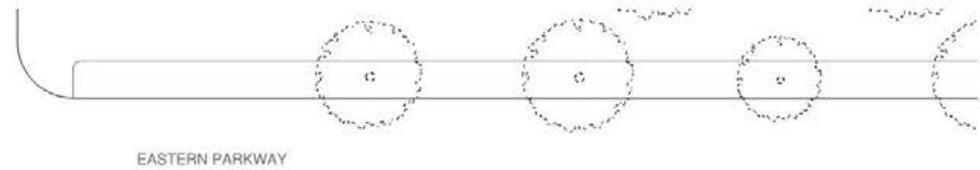
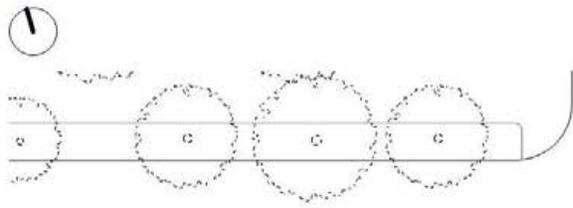
6. WEST ELEVATION ON SCHENECTADY - REAR YARD

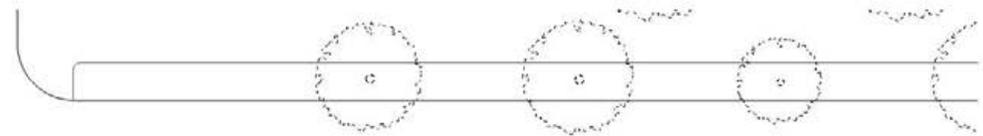
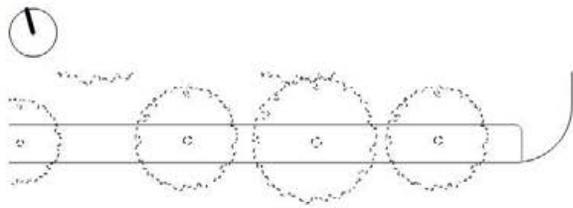


7. REAR YARD - SOUTH

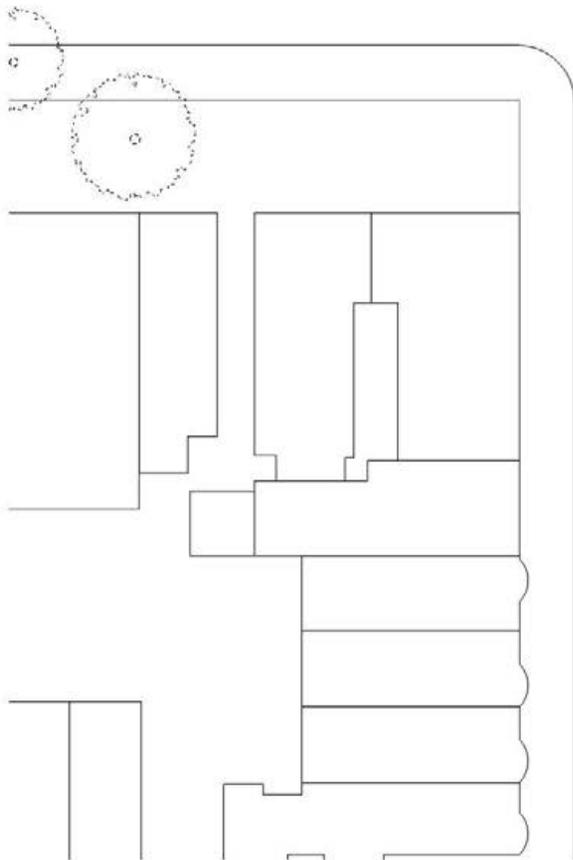


8. SCHENECTADY LOOKING NORTH

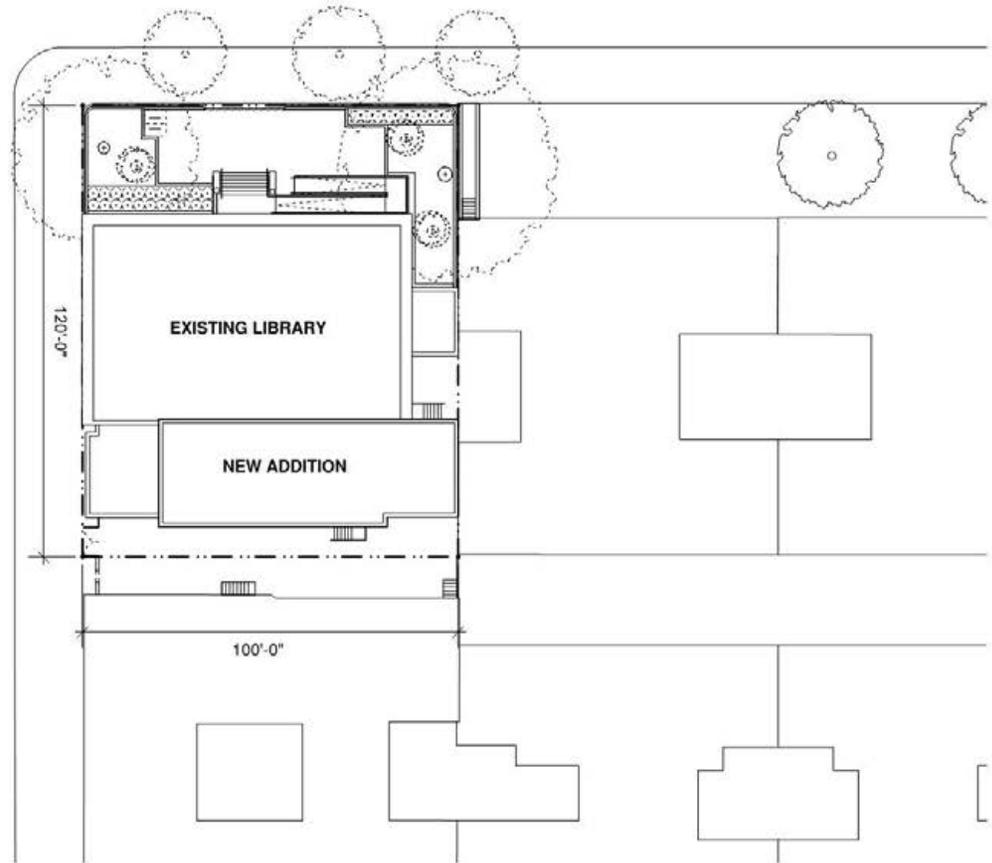




EASTERN PARKWAY



SCHEENECTADY AVE



Reflections

Artwork Proposal

Conceptual Design

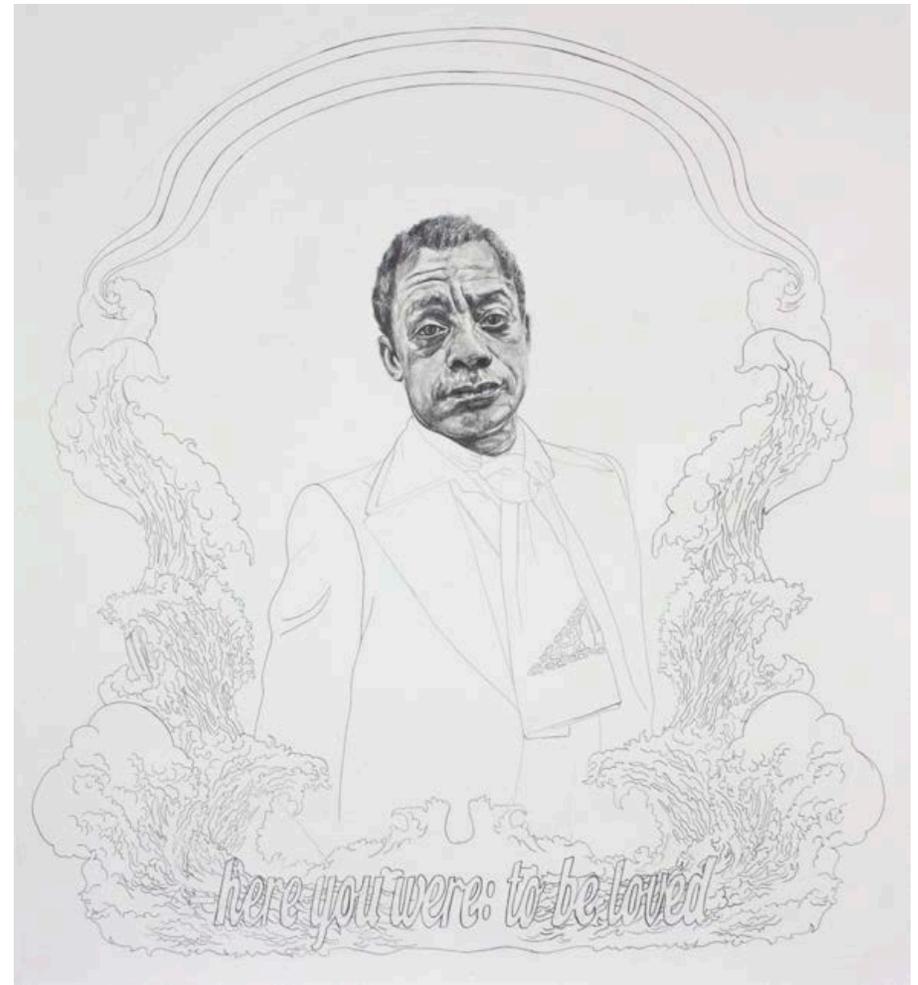
Artwork Proposal: Reflections

I am proposing a series of 8 reflective portraits of influential authors from the African diaspora for the Brooklyn Public Library Eastern Parkway branch.

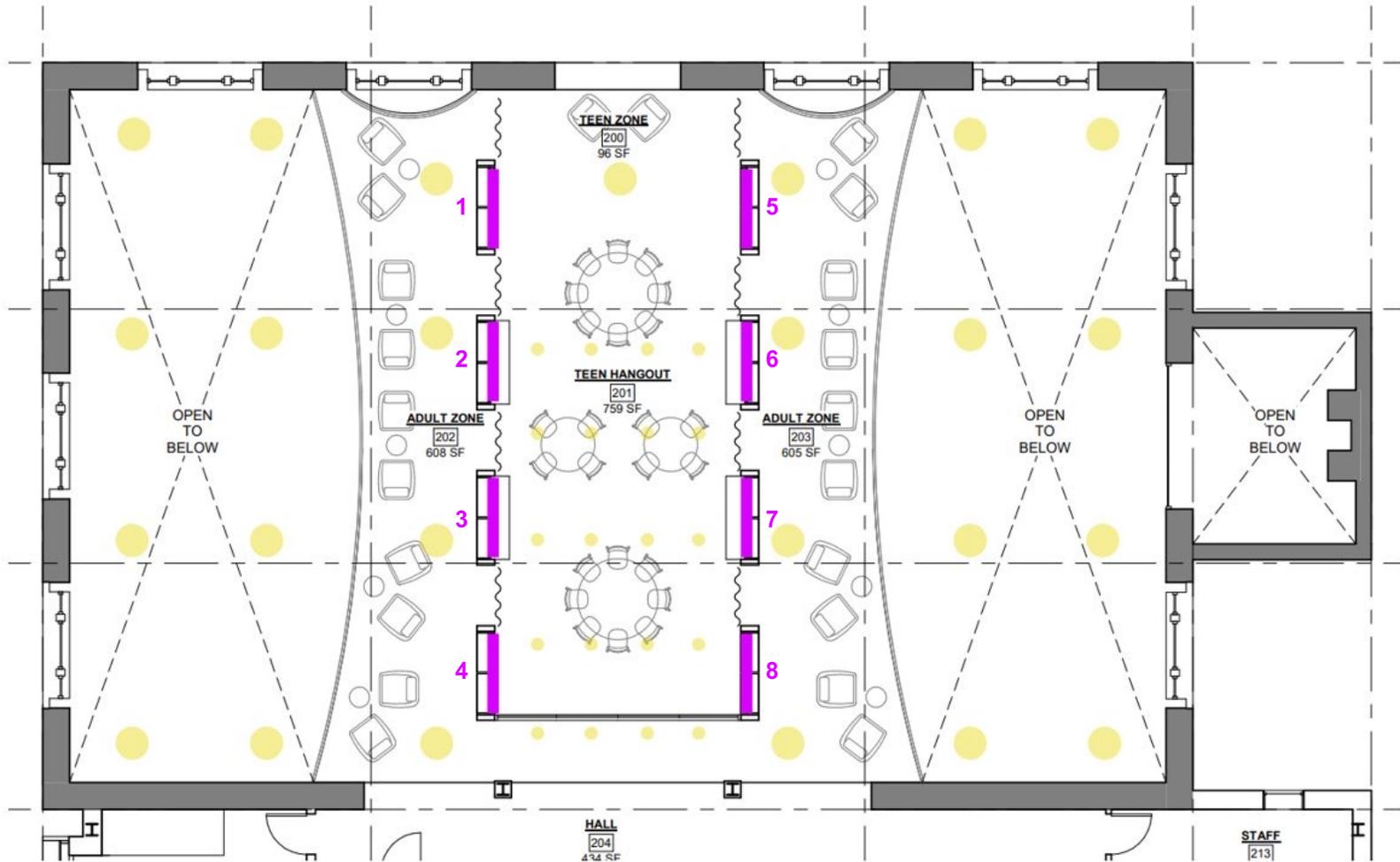
These portraits will be etched on to mirrored shatterproof glass or metal. The mirrors will provide viewers the opportunity to reflect on the authors being represented and themselves. The portraits will be framed by a BLACK POWER WAVE motif and plant life. Plants include native and non-native species as well as those from numerous regions of the African diaspora, grounding the portraits in a narrative of migration and history. Focusing on the African Diaspora pays homage to the diversity of cultures and peoples of African descent currently living in Crown Heights, their journey and making this community home.

The frames will be made from durable materials such as shatter proof mirrored glass or stainless steel. A variety of colors will be used; therefore, to create a truly reflective work. The artwork will be located on the mezzanine level outside of the Teen Zone along eight wall panels and will be visible from the first floor.

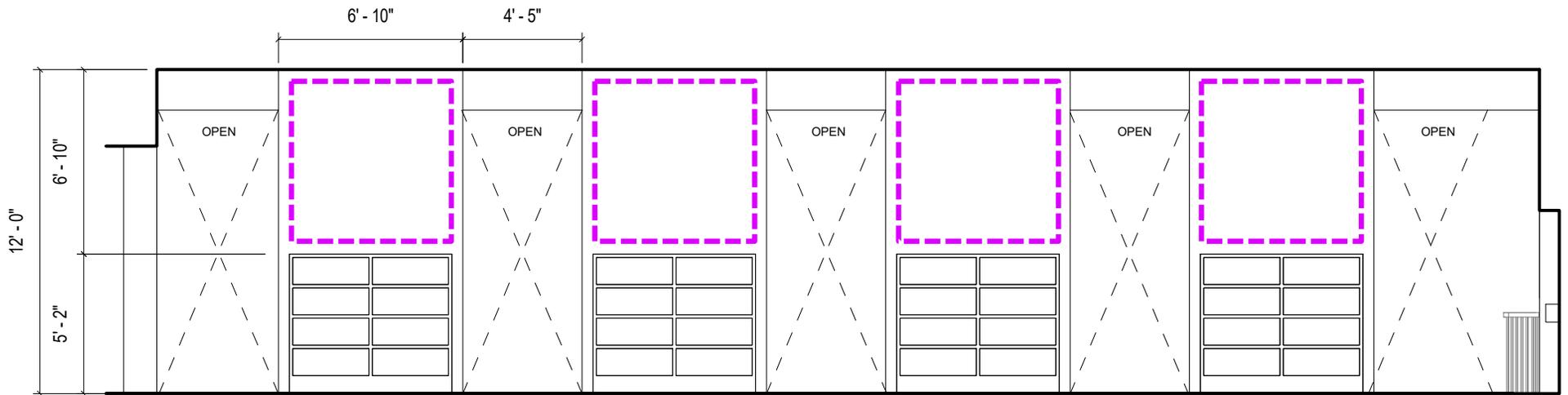
Percent for Art Panel Proposal





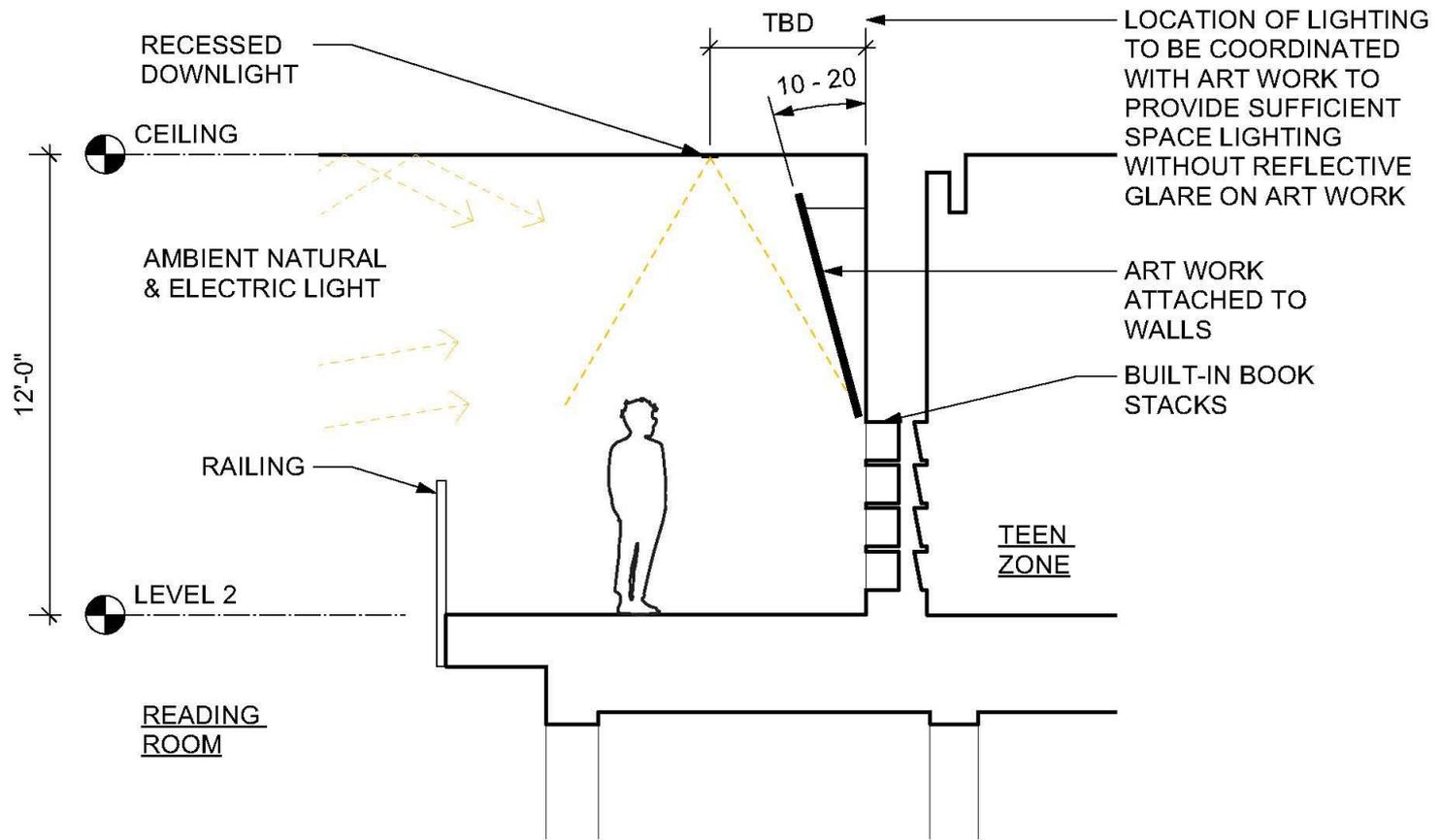


ARTWORK LOCATIONS —————



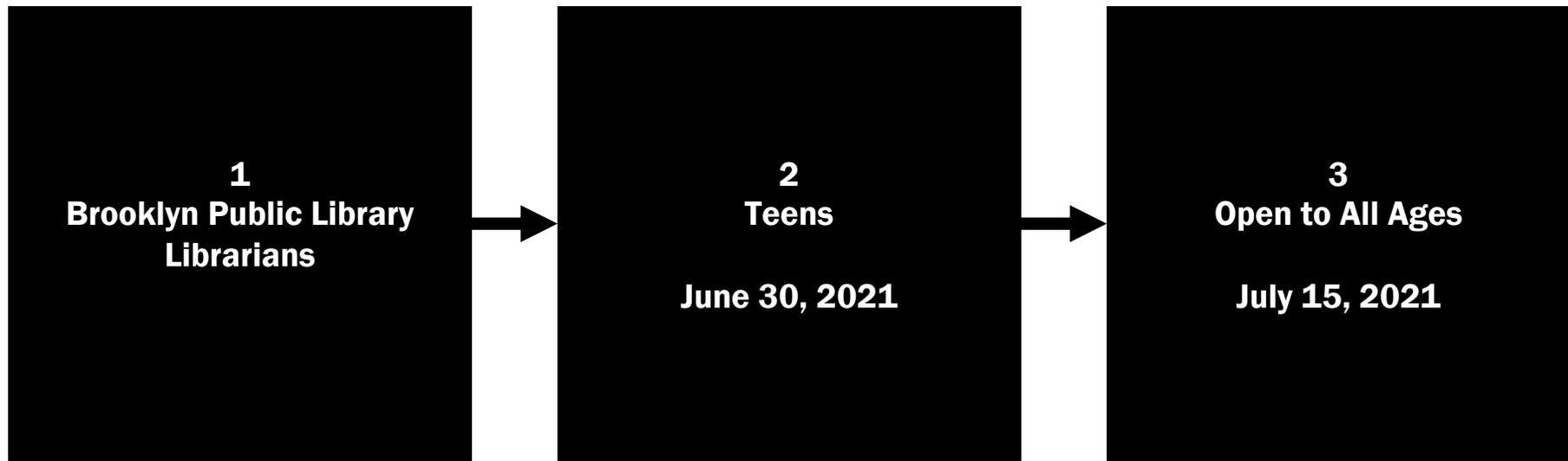
1 TEEN ZONE ELEVATION - WEST
 1/4" = 1'-0"

ARTWORK LOCATIONS - - - - -



1 Section Diagram - Art & Lighting
 Scale: 1/4" = 1'-0"

Community Engagement Plan



Engaging all BPL Librarians to nominate BIPOC authors for portraits by the artist: Librarians will submit longlist of 15 nominations

June 30th - Zoom meeting with review of longlist of authors. Teens will review author profiles through online platform Milanote and create a top 10 list.

July 15th The top 10 list will then be shared with general library members to select the final 8 authors for the artworks

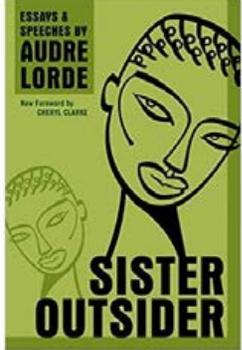
Writer Nominee Milanote Research Board Example

AUDRE LORDE
4 cards






PUBLISHED WORK
4 cards



SISTER OUTSIDER

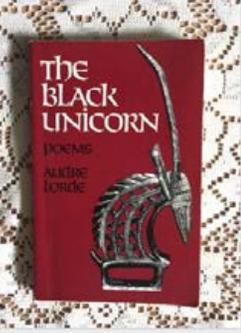


THE CANCER JOURNALS

HISTORIC FACTS
1 card

AUDRE LORDE

- BORN FEBRUARY 18th 1938 IN NYC
- Published over 24 books of poetry, prose, essays, and speeches
- Family from Barbados and Grenada
- Lorde's honors and awards included a fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts.
- A professor of English at John Jay College and Hunter College.
- Was poet laureate of New York from 1991-1992.



THE BLACK UNICORN

The Black Unicorn by Audre Lorde

The black unicorn is greedy. The black unicorn is impatient. The black unicorn was mistaken for a shadow or symbol and taken through a cold country where mist painted mockeries of my fury. It is not on her lap where the horn rests but deep in her moonpelt growing. The black unicorn is restless the black unicorn is unrelenting the black unicorn is not free.

Botanic reference images
6 cards

Pride of Barbados (Dwarf Poinciana or Flower Fence)




Bougainvillea (Nyctaginaceae)




CULTURAL IMPACT
1 card

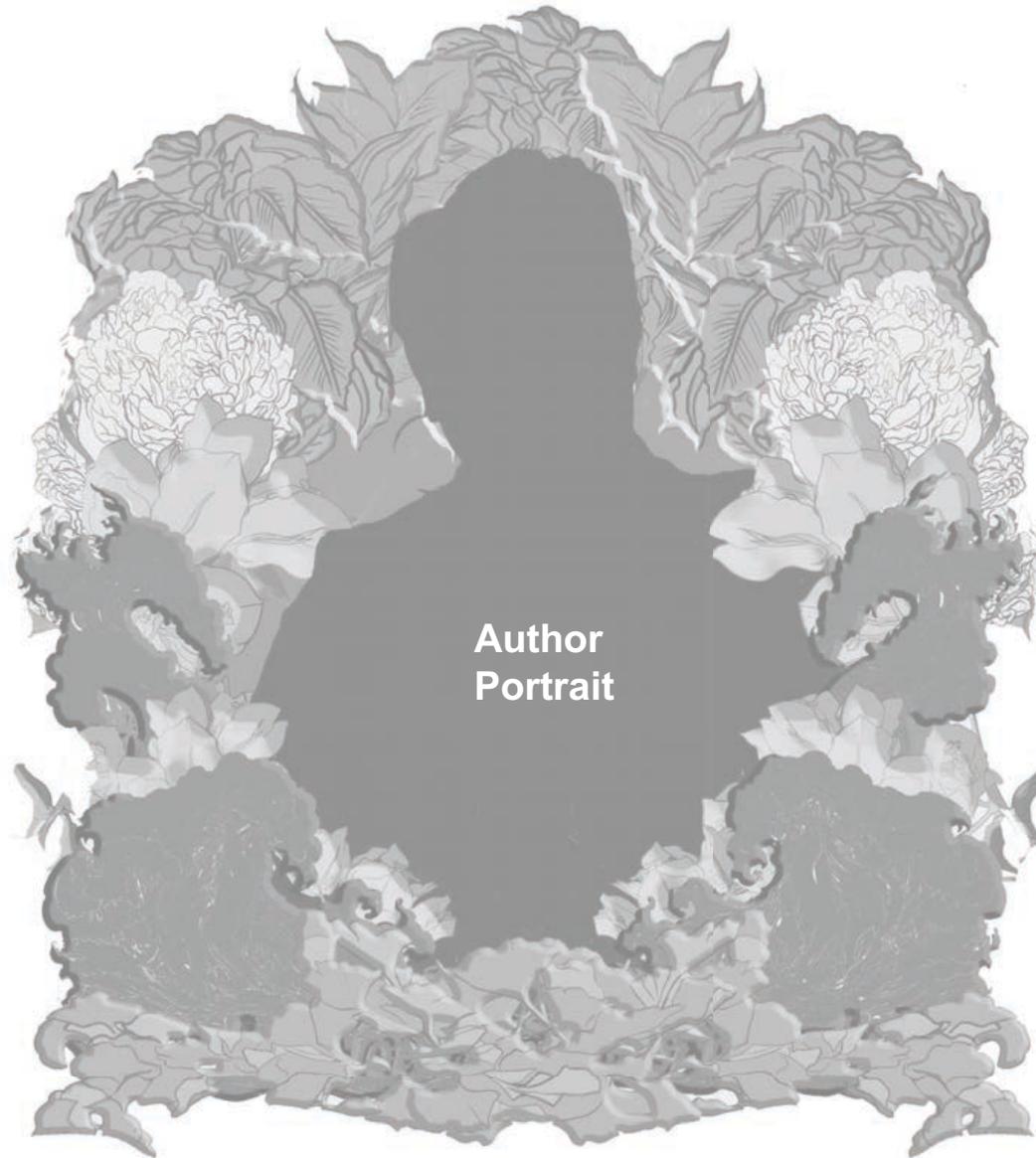
AUDRE LORDE

- A self-described "black, lesbian, mother, warrior, poet," Audre Lorde dedicated both her life and her creative talent to confronting and addressing injustices of racism, sexism, classism, and homophobia.
- Her experiences with teaching and pedagogy—as well as her place as a Black, queer woman in white academia—went on to inform her life and work. Indeed, Lorde's contributions to feminist theory, critical race studies, and queer theory intertwine her personal experiences with broader political aims. Lorde articulated early on the intersections of race, class, and gender in canonical essays such as "The Master's Tools Will Not Dismantle the Master's House."
- Lorde was a noted prose writer as well as poet. Her account of her struggle to overcome breast cancer and mastectomy, *The Cancer Journals* (1980), is regarded as a major work of illness narrative. In *The Cancer Journals*, Lorde confronts the possibility of death. Recounting this personal transformation led Lorde to address the silence surrounding cancer, illness, and the lived experience of women. For example, Lorde explained her decision not to wear a prosthesis after undergoing a mastectomy in the *Journals*: "Prosthesis offers the empty comfort of 'Nobody will know the difference.' But it is that very difference which I wish to affirm, because I have lived it, and survived it, and wish to share that strength with other women. If we are to translate the silence surrounding breast cancer into language and action against this scourge, then the first step is that women with mastectomies must become visible to each other."
- In 1981 Lorde and fellow-writers [Cherríe Moraga](#) and Barbara Smith founded Kitchen Table: Women of Color Press, which was dedicated to furthering the writings of black feminists. Lorde would also become increasingly concerned over the plight of black women in South Africa under apartheid, creating Sisterhood in Support of Sisters in South Africa and remaining an active voice on behalf of these women throughout the remainder of her life. Lorde addressed her concerns to not only the United States but the world, encouraging a celebration of the differences that society instead used as tools of isolation.

Teen Community Engagement

The screenshot shows the Brooklyn Public Library website interface. At the top left is the Bklyn Public Library logo. A search bar is located at the top center. On the right side of the top navigation bar are links for 'HOURS + LOCATIONS', 'TRANSLATE', 'LOG IN', and 'DONATE'. A left sidebar contains navigation options: 'Borrow', 'Learn', 'Attend', and 'More'. Below the sidebar is a teal banner with a back arrow and the text 'EVENTS & CLASSES'. The main content area features the event title 'Community Engagement with Artist Oasa DuVerney' in large white text. Below the title, it specifies the date 'Wed, Jun 30 2021', time '4:00 pm - 5:00 pm', and location 'Virtual'. There are four category tags: 'TEENS & YOUNG ADULTS', 'ARTISTS AND ARCHIVES', 'EVENTS FOR YOUTH AND FAMILY', and 'VIRTUAL PROGRAMMING'. A central text block describes the event: 'Join artist Oasa DuVerney and help shape the artwork that will appear in the newly-renovated Eastern Parkway branch. We welcome teens throughout the borough and in the neighborhood for a conversation about BIPOC authors that inspire you. Learn about new authors you may not yet know of the African Diaspora, and decide who among them deserve pride of place as part of a permanent artwork at the branch. The portraits of these celebrated and important authors will appear on the second floor of the new branch when it opens, and some of them in the Teen wing.' Below this is an 'Artist Project Statement' section with a quote from the artist: 'I am proposing a series of reflective portraits of influential authors from the African diaspora for the Brooklyn Public Library Eastern Parkway branch. These portraits will be etched into shatterproof glass mirrors. The mirrors will provide viewers the opportunity to reflect on the authors being represented and themselves. Focusing on the African Diaspora pays homage to the diversity of cultures and peoples of African descent currently living in Crown Heights, their journey and making this community home.' Further down, it states: 'This public art project is part of Percent for Art, where the artist was selected by a city-appointed panel of independent critics, artists and cultural partners, as well as Brooklyn Public Library. Youth and people of Brooklyn play an important role in helping to shape the art. This is the first of two community engagements.' A note at the bottom of the text block says: 'This is a virtual program; all registrants will receive login information upon registration.' On the right side of the page, there is a registration form with a header image of a portrait. The form includes 'Add to My Calendar' and 'Share' buttons, followed by input fields for 'First Name *', 'Last Name *', 'Email *', and 'Zip Code *'. There is a checkbox for 'Sign up for BPL Presents eNews' and a section for 'Additional Guests'.

Portrait Diagram



Each of the 8 portraits will be composed with a portrait of a BIPOC author in the center and framed by BLACK POWER WAVE motif and plant life

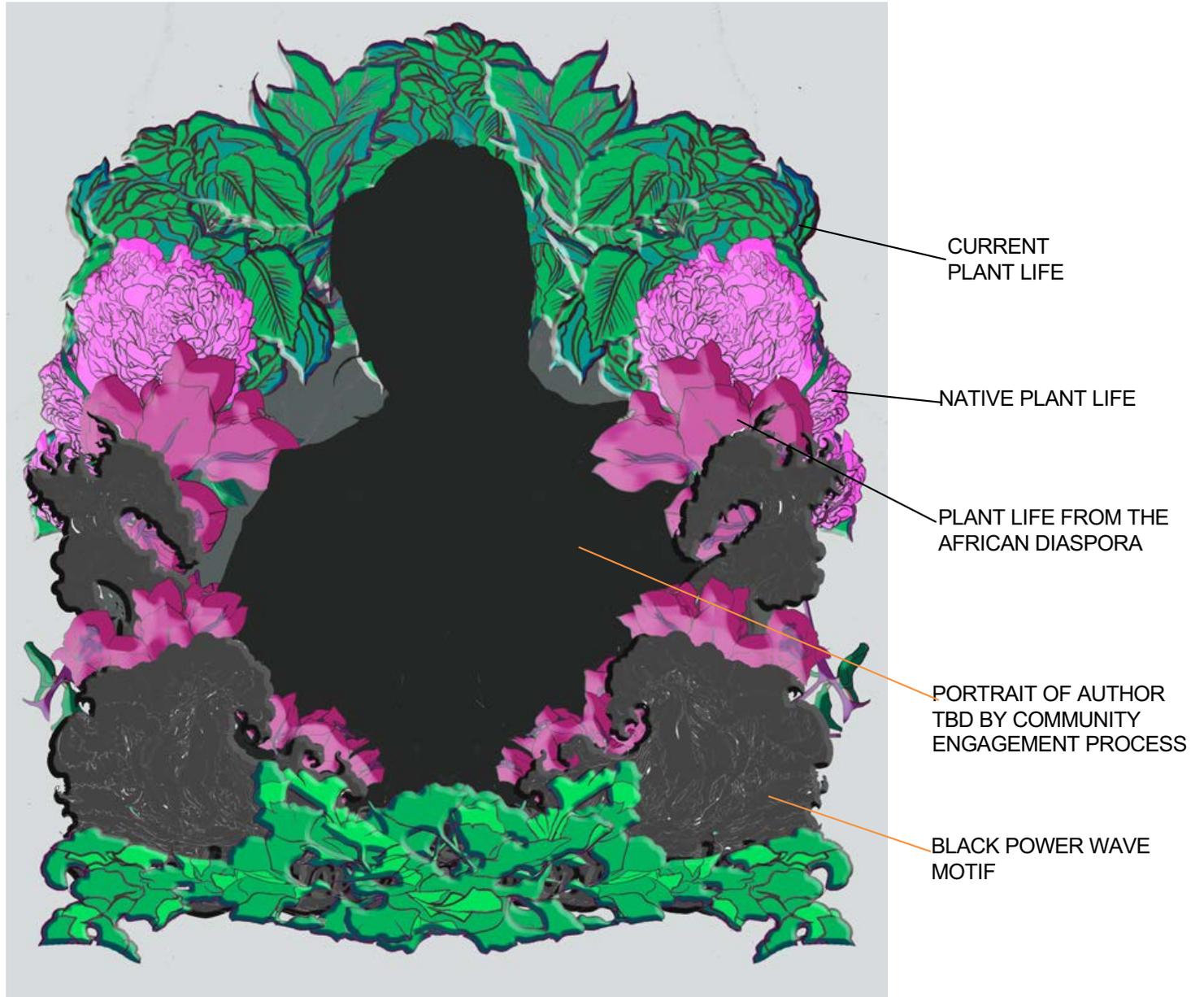
**Portrait
Diagram**

6FT MAXIMUM

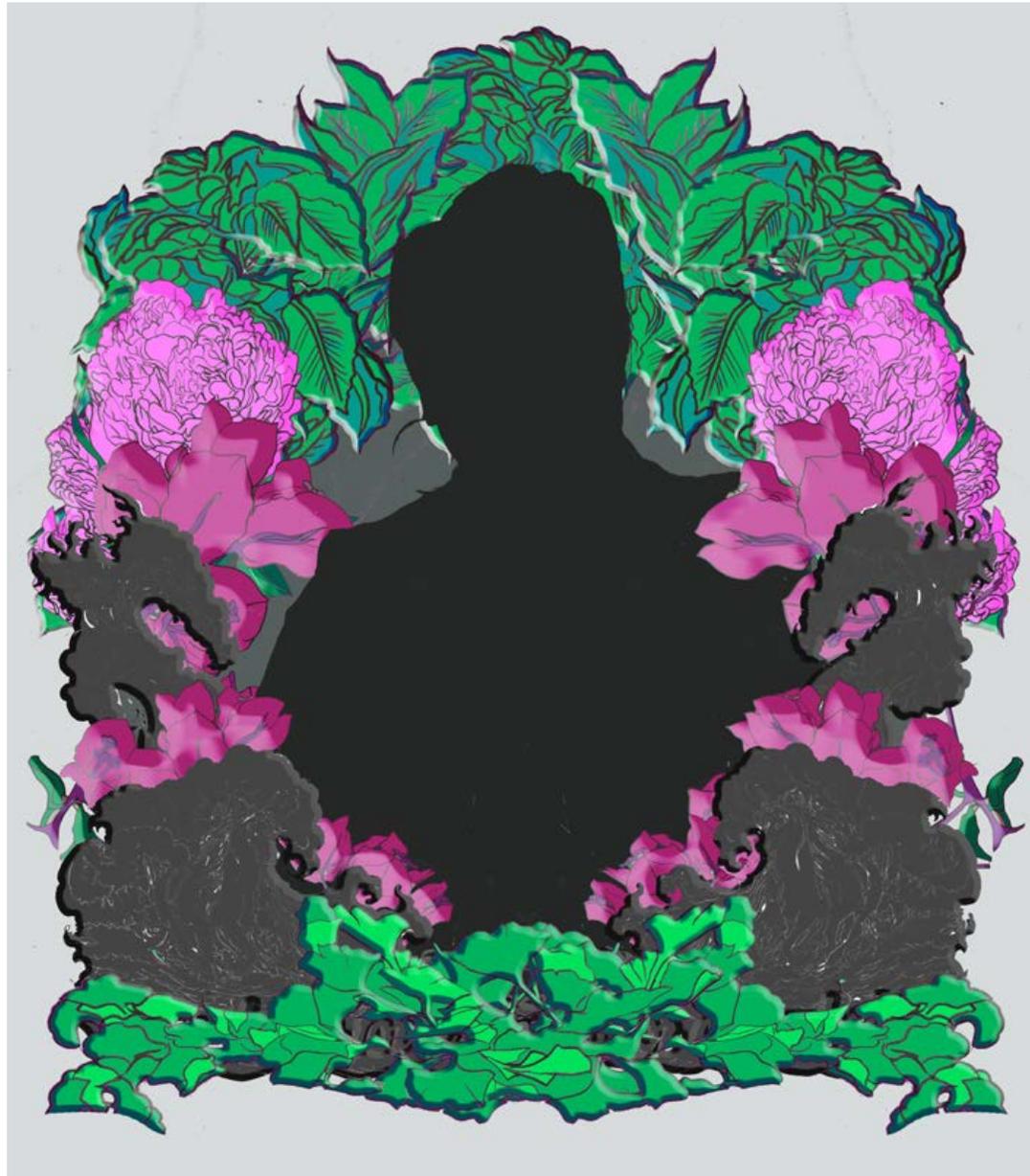


6FT MAXIMUM

Portrait Diagram



Portrait Diagram



The frames will be made from durable materials such as shatter proof mirrored glass or stainless steel.

Frame Motif Drawing Research: Current Local Plant Life Illustrations

Original Drawings



Color Renderings



Frame Motif Drawing Research: Native Plant Life Illustrations

Original Drawings

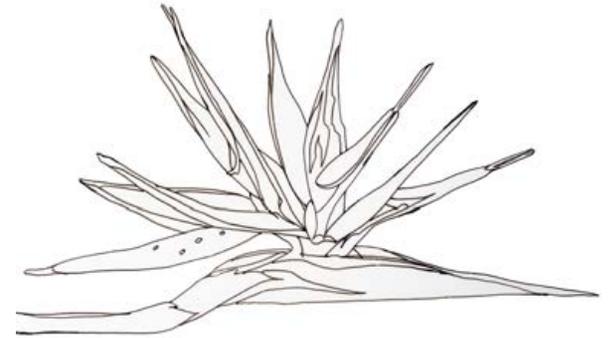
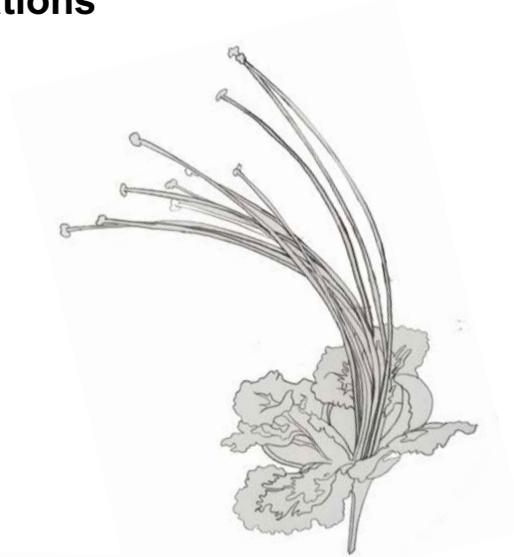
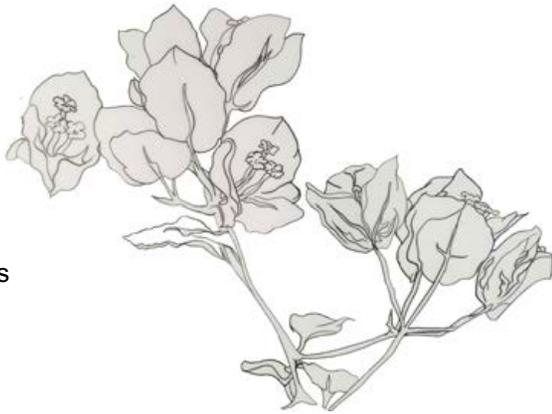


Color Renderings

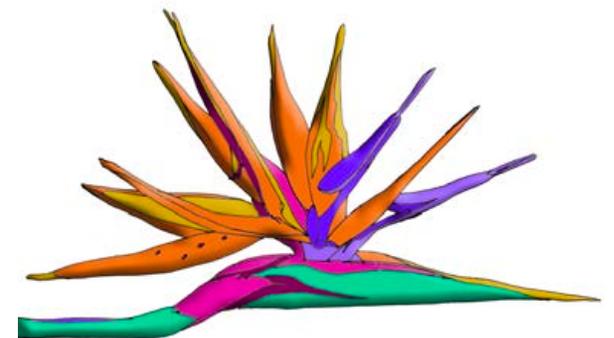


Frame Motif Drawing Research: Plant Life of the African Diaspora Illustrations

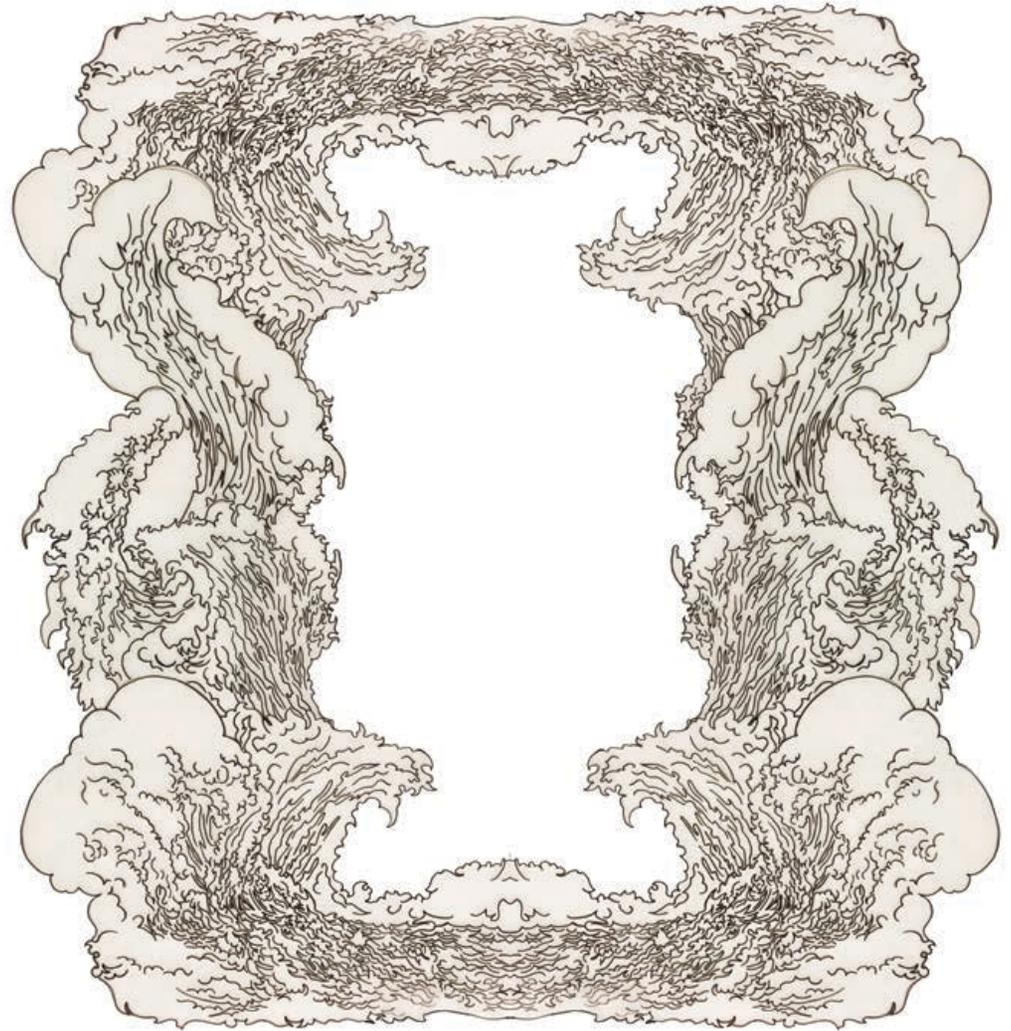
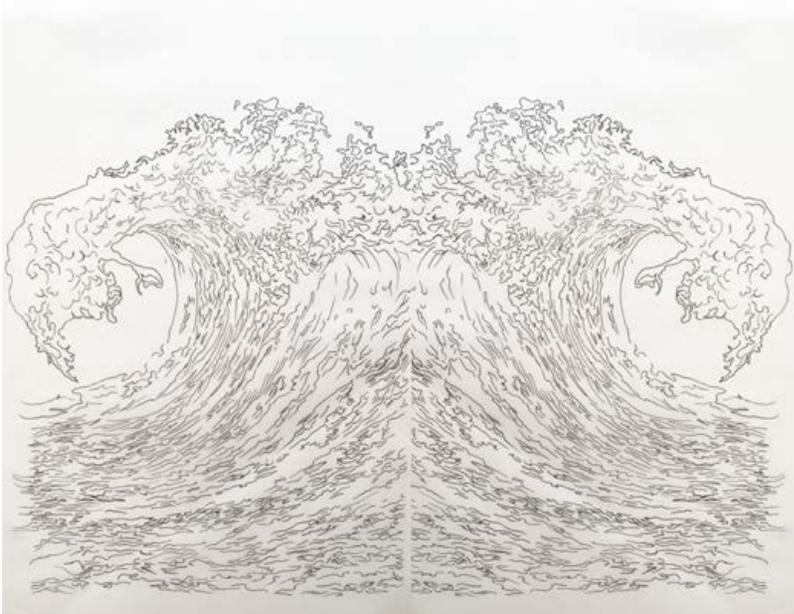
Original Drawings



Color Renderings



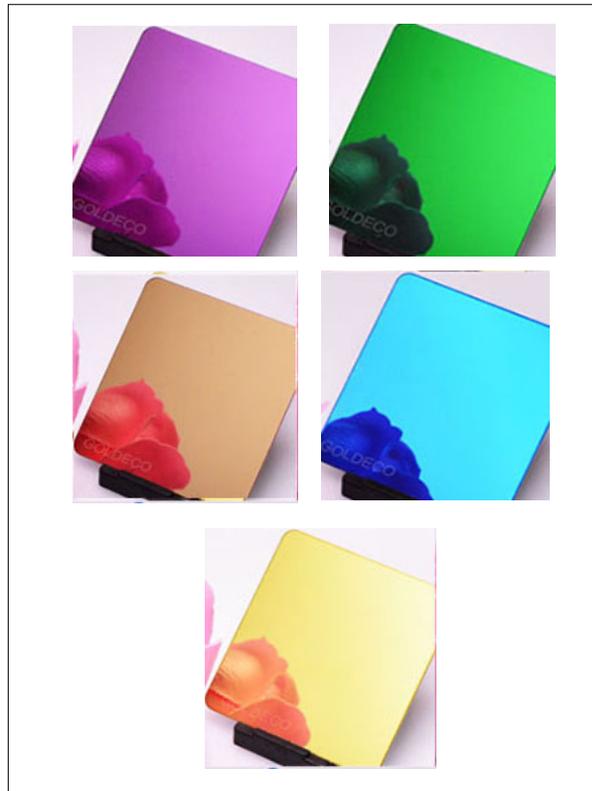
Frame Motif Drawing Research: Wave illustrations



Material and Methods Research



Shatterproof mirrored glass
laser cut and etched in various
jewel toned colors



Mirror Polished stainless steel
with color coating



Laser Cutting and Engraving



Metal casting

CLEANING AND MAINTAINING ARTWORK

SHATTERPROOF GLASS

1. Remove any dust particles using a lint-free cloth.
2. Simply add a splash of mild liquid detergent to warm water, and gently wipe down with a chamois leather cloth
3. Use a soft cloth to gently wipe the **glass** dry.

MIRRORED STAINLESS STEEL

Mirror polished stainless steel finishes should be cleaned with a concentrated foam spray **cleaner** (such as Sprayway®, or a similar product) and wiped with a **clean**, dry cloth. Such foam **cleaners** can be used as often as necessary.



*Insitu rendering indicating artwork locations
Specific author portrait drawings tbd*



*Insitu rendering indicating artwork locations
Specific author portrait drawings tbd*