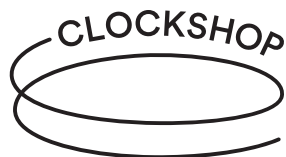


subterranean
convergence
LaRissa Rogers



ACTIVITY

GUIDE

THIS ACTIVITY GUIDE BELONGS TO:

Parent/caregiver note:

For ages 4–9, adult support is recommended

Learners ages 10–110 are encouraged to explore the guide independently

FLIP OVER FOR SPANISH VERSION

welcome



subterranean convergence is an installation by LaRissa Rogers, an artist who grew up in Virginia in the American South and has built connections in Los Angeles over the years. Rogers makes art about how people's lives and memories connect to bigger stories about history and place.

This installation focuses on a specific train route, the Sunset Limited. This route has linked New Orleans with Los Angeles since 1894, bringing Black Southerners and new immigrants to the West to make new lives.

The curving train tracks you see here were designed by Rogers and contain a pattern that echoes the architecture of this neighborhood, Los Angeles's Chinatown. The objects in the tracks were contributed by real people who shared an heirloom that reminds them of home. Rogers invited the public to remake some of these objects using a building material called tabby, which has a long history from its origins in the northern coast of Africa to its use in the American South.

Here, the artist is collecting stories from near and far that help us think about what it means to travel through time toward a new destination.



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activity 1

A Path Through Your Life

Think about the places that have been most important in your life.

Where have you lived, learned, visited, spent time with friends, or experienced an important moment?

Mark three to five of those places on the page, then draw a path connecting them.

How will you design this path? LaRissa Rogers has created a railroad with elaborate patterns to connect the objects in her artwork. Is your path simple and straightforward? Is it wiggly and wandering? Is it full of decorations and details?

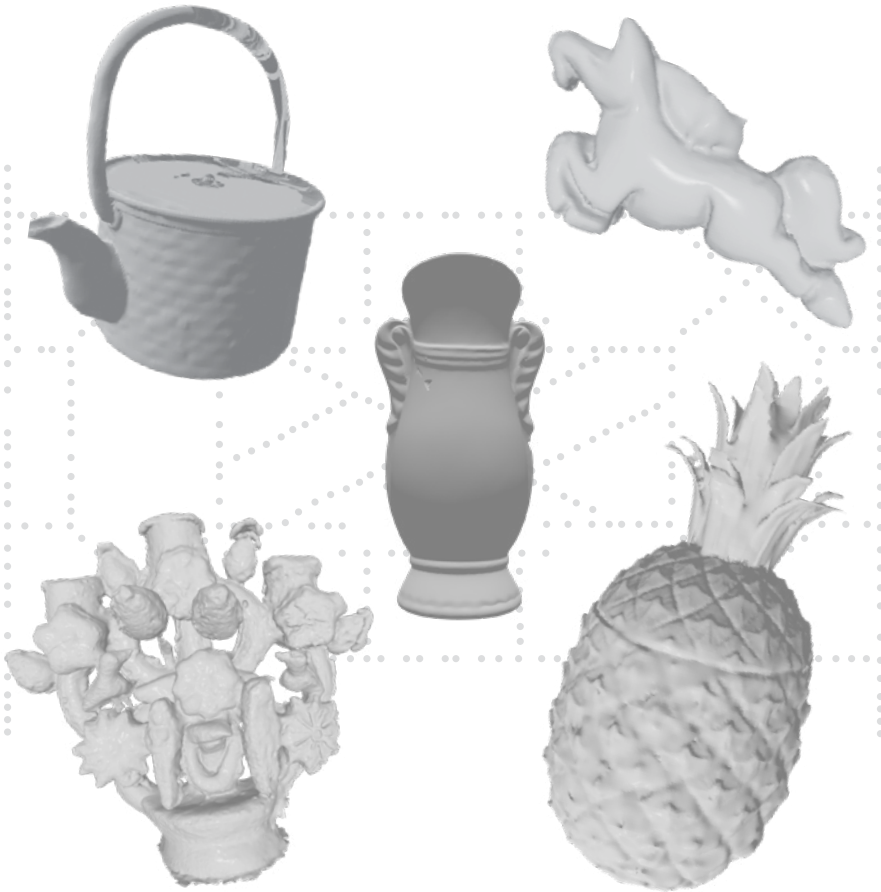


draw here

activity 2

Scavenger Hunt

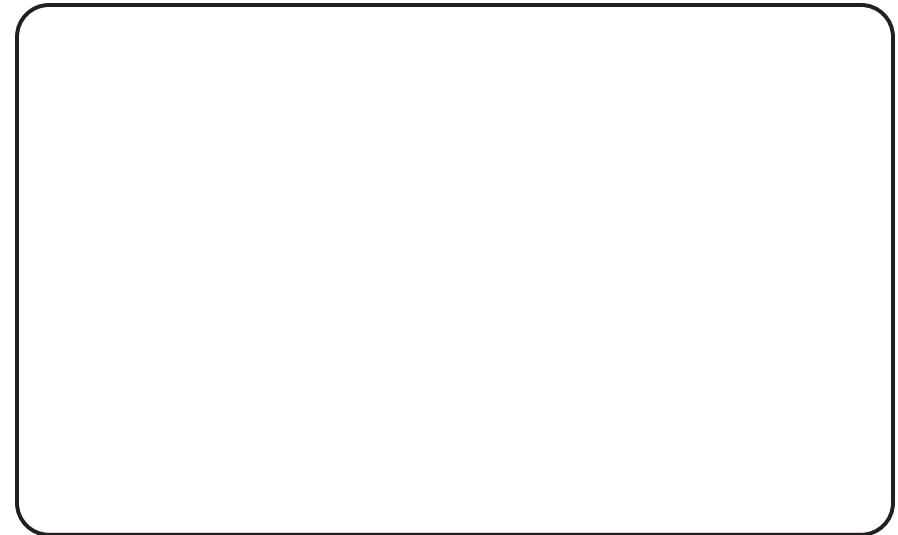
As part of her artistic process, LaRissa Rogers invited people to bring meaningful objects from their lives to workshops in Los Angeles and New Orleans. At the workshops, they shared those objects' stories, and the objects were then 3D-scanned. Next, the objects were 3D-printed and made into molds. Finally, she reproduced them in tabby and laid them onto the train tracks you see before you. In this activity, you'll explore some of these objects and their stories.



1. **Scan:** Scan the QR code on the main pedestal with information about the project.



2. **Match:** On the website's homepage, explore the 3D scans and look closely at the tabby objects in the installation. Can you match each 3D scan on your screen to its matching version in the sculpture?
3. **Draw:** Choose the object you felt most connected to or curious about. Draw the object below.



4. **Reflect:** Why did you choose this object? What about it caught your attention or made you curious? Does it connect at all to your or your family's history?

(If you want to learn more about the other objects in the installation, you can find them on the website under "Map.")

activity 3

Materials that Make Us

LaRissa Rogers thinks carefully about the materials she chooses to use in her artworks. Every material looks and feels different, and can do different things. Every material also has a unique place in history, and connections to different cultures and stories across time:

Tabby is the bumpy, white-gray material that the objects are made of. It is an ancient building material that comes from the coast of northern Africa. It was also used by enslaved peoples in the American South. Historically, it was made from a mixture of sand and oyster shells.

Look for **carved wood** designs along the railroad tracks in this artwork. The wood here is carved in a specific style called "chinoiserie." This style was inspired by East Asian art, but the designs were changed and reused over time to mean different things for different people. For example, they were used in the design of early government buildings during the American colonial period and in "New Chinatown" in Los Angeles in the 1930s.

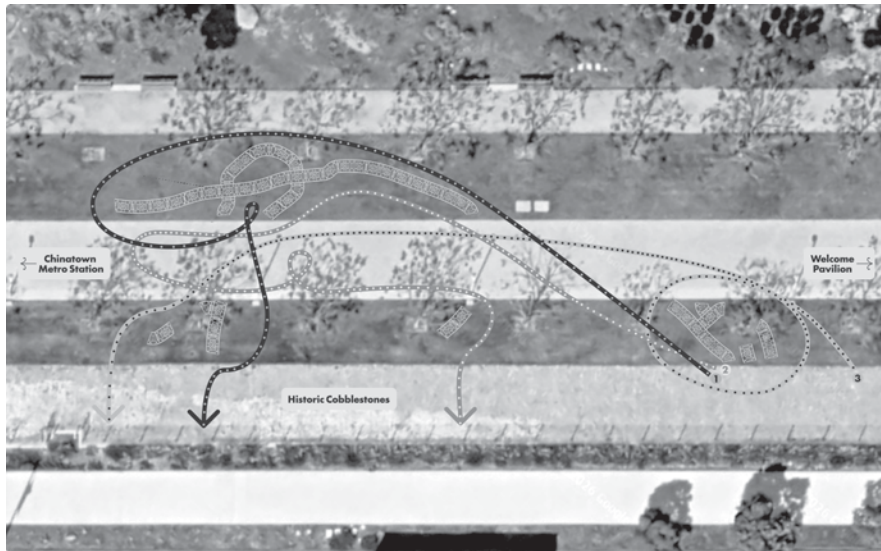
In the boxes below, think about the materials and textures that show up in your life and your home. In each box, name a material (for example: silk, canvas, adobe). Then draw or write to reflect on its texture, its connection to your personal or family history, and any memories it brings to mind.

activity 4

Walk a Path

The word **score** is an interesting bit of language. It comes from the Old Norse word, *skor*, meaning a notch or a mark. The word still carries some of that meaning: a score is something marked down.

To accompany the sculpture, *subterranean convergence* has a **score for performance**. This score marks down instructions: ways to move through, explore, and respond to the artwork. Anyone who visits the artwork is invited to participate and follow the score.



Time to try it out! Don't be shy —

Find the sign with the drawing of the score and follow the instructions (or use the same QR code from Activity #2 and click on the page "Score").

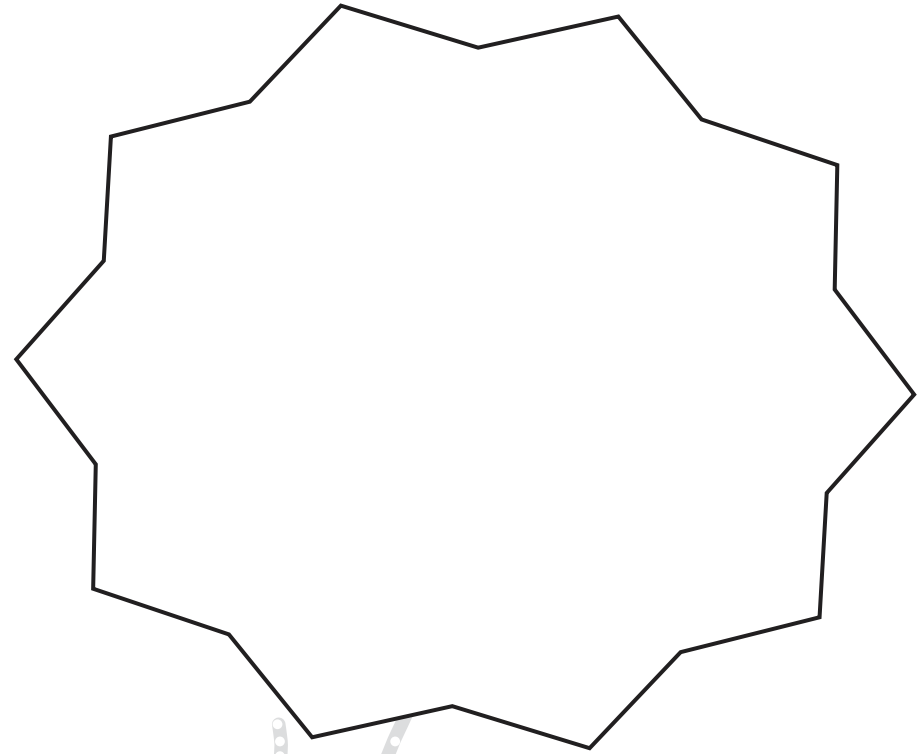
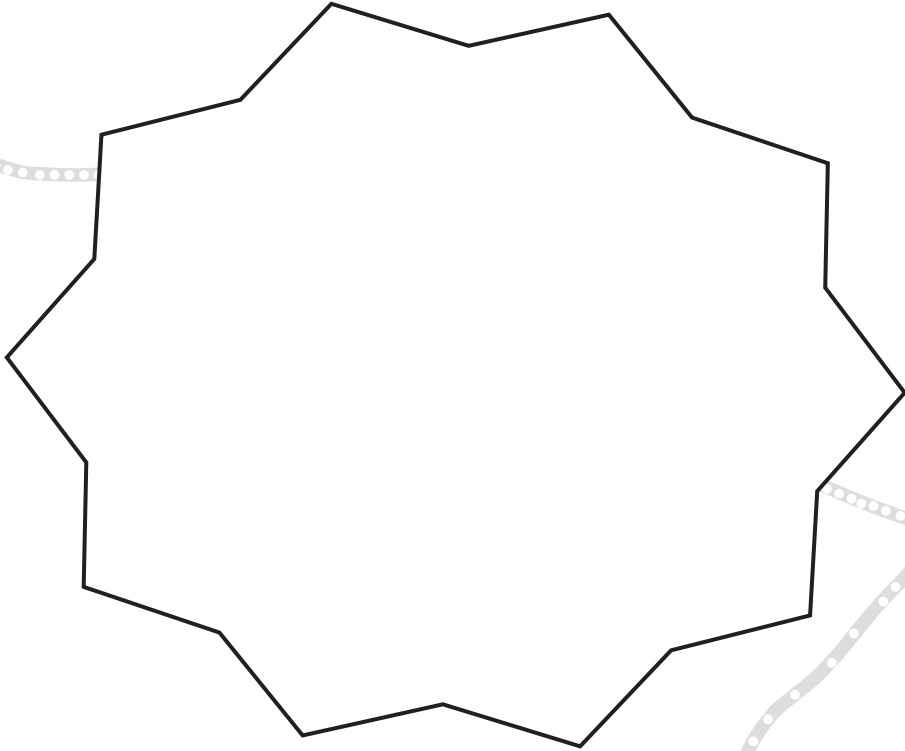


closing

In **subterranean convergence**, LaRissa Rogers explores how people have moved between the American South and the West. Rogers is interested in how movement can be one way to achieve **liberation**, or freedom. But she wonders: are there other ways to find liberation?

What does the word **liberation** mean to you? When you imagine liberation—for yourself, for your communities, for the world—what does it look like?

Use the space below to draw, write, and imagine.



En **convergencia subterránea**, LaRissa Rogers explora cómo las personas se han desplazado entre el sur y el oeste de Estados Unidos. A Rogers le interesa cómo el movimiento puede ser una forma de alcanzar la **liberación**, o la libertad. Pero se pregunta: ¿hay otras formas de encontrar la liberación?

¿Qué significa para usted la palabra **liberación**? Cuando imagina la liberación—para usted, para sus comunidades, para el mundo—¿cómo se ve?

Utilice el espacio a continuación para dibujar, escribir e imaginar.

conclusión