

ABOUT THE EXHIBITION

A Layered Presence / Una presencia estratificada features works by 22 multigenerational artists with ties to Mexico, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Colombia, Peru, and Uruguay. Working in a variety of media and styles, these Kansas City-based artists consider issues of family, memory, and identity through layered and nuanced works. Each artist offers a unique and personal perspective, reinforced by wall labels written by the artists themselves. Audio interviews with the artists, available via the Smartify app, add another layer of understanding and empathy to each work in the exhibition.



View of the exhibition galleries

USING THIS GUIDE

This guide is designed to support educators in sharing *A Layered Presence / Una presencia estratificada* with students, either through an onsite museum visit or by viewing images and label text online. Inside you'll find activity ideas, discussion questions, and suggested resources. The content of the guide is adaptable to different grade levels but is especially relevant to middle and high school grades.

For use in the classroom or a remote learning environment, images of the works included in the exhibition are viewable at bit.ly/3SBQjIk.

Interested in bringing students to view *A Layered Presence / Una presencia estratificada* at the museum? Find the latest information on scheduling and capacity guidelines at nelson-atkins.org/tours.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Through the activities outlined in this guide:

- Students will recognize that artists and art are multilayered.
- Students will consider the choices that artists make in order to convey their unique ideas, interests, and experiences.
- Students will connect with the perspectives of local artists whose identities may be similar to or different from their own.



Guests viewing Juan G. Moya's *C/S K.C. -- Con Safos Kansas City*

WHAT TO EXPECT IN THE EXHIBITION

A Layered Presence / Una presencia estratificada is on view at the Nelson-Atkins in Gallery L8, which is located in the Bloch Building. Each of the 22 participating artists has one work included in the exhibition. Most of the works are large enough to be viewed by a few people at once. Each work is accompanied by a label featuring the artist's own written thoughts in both English and Spanish. Additional interview content from each artist can be accessed by opening the Smartify app and scanning a work with your device. If viewing the exhibition remotely, search for a work's title and/or artist in Smartify and scroll down to "Deepen your knowledge" to find the interview content.

PREPARATORY ACTIVITIES

Consider Layers in Art & Life

The title of this exhibition was chosen to reflect the fact that artists and art are multilayered. Discuss as a class: What might it mean for a work of art to have layers? What might it mean for a person to have layers?

Ask students to reflect on the many layers that make up each of their own identities. You might have them complete a graphic organizer to capture their ideas. Graphic organizer templates are available through:

- Facing History and Ourselves (bit.ly/3uUbOvX)
- Learning for Justice (bit.ly/3NnmppI)
- PBS Learning Media (bit.ly/3RDxPXJ)



Learn About Kansas City's Latinx Heritage

The artists featured in *A Layered Presence / Una presencia estratificada* are part of a rich artistic tradition in the Kansas City area. Students can use web-based resources to learn about the roots, legacy, and ongoing vibrancy of Kansas City's Latin American communities. See the "Suggested Resources" section of this guide for ideas of where to find this information.

Guest viewing the exhibition

VIEWING THE EXHIBITION

Look Closely at One Artist's Work

Invite students to select one work of art to examine closely, considering the following questions:

- How has this artist used the elements of art (color, line, shape, form, texture, space) in their work?
- What symbols has the artist used? What do those symbols call to mind for you? What might they mean within this work of art?
- What do you notice about the material(s) and technique(s) this artist used? Why might the artist have chosen them?
- What is the overall mood or impression you get from this work of art? What does it say to you?



Guest viewing Socorro Rico's
In Mirror of Self
(*En espejo de uno mismo*)

Consider the Artist's Perspective

Now that students have considered the meaning of the work they chose, encourage them to read the label and listen to the artist's interview via Smartify. They can write or discuss in response to these questions:

- How is the artist's perspective on the work similar to or different from the way you initially understood it?

- When looking at the work of art, where do you see evidence of the words, feelings, or ideas that the artist expressed in their commentary?
- Do the artist's statements help you see anything new in the work that you didn't notice before?

Reflect on Themes

The artists featured in *A Layered Presence / Una presencia estratificada* explore a number of themes, including:

- Memory
- Immigration
- LGBTQIA+ issues
- Family
- Healing
- Place

Ask students to select one of the themes listed above and write or draw their own reflections on that theme. What does it mean to them? What personal stories or experiences can they connect to that theme?

Next, challenge students to identify a work in the exhibition that addresses their chosen theme. Do they see any parallels between the work and their own perspective?



View of the exhibition galleries

EXTEND YOUR LEARNING



Guests viewing the exhibition

Create an Original Layered Artwork

Invite students to create original works of art that incorporate the concept of real or metaphorical layers. How will they use layers to share some aspect of their memories, identities, or personal stories? Will their layers conceal or reveal? What medium will best express their ideas?

For additional inspiration from artists who employ visual, physical, or symbolic layers, students might wish to explore the Tate resource, "Layers Coursework Guide" at bit.ly/3uVHbq5.

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

The activities described in this guide can engage students with the National Core Arts Standards:

Anchor Standard #7. Perceive and analyze artistic work.

Anchor Standard #8. Interpret intent and meaning in artistic work.

Anchor Standard #10. Synthesize and relate knowledge and personal experiences to make art.

SUGGESTED RESOURCES

Smartify

app.smartify.org

Use this mobile app to view the works of art included in *A Layered Presence / Una presencia estratificada*, read the label texts written by the artists, and listen to artist interviews.

Clio

Latino/Latina History of Kansas City by Humanities Kansas

theclio.com/tour/597

This thematic place-based tour will introduce students to the history of Kansas City's Latinx community through key locations on both sides of the state line. Tour content is available in English and Spanish.

KCPT

We Are Latinos and We Are Latinos II by Victor Antillanca

kansascitypbs.org/local-shows/we-are-latinos

This documentary series captures the legacy of Latino trailblazers who continue to shape Kansas City.

Kansas City Public Library

Guadalupe Center Photographs

kchistory.org/collection/Guadalupe-center-photographs

View photographs from the collections of the Guadalupe Center, a Latino-focused social services organization that has long served as a community anchor in Kansas City. Photographs date to the 1920s—1940s and depict Guadalupe Center activities, including festivals, classes, clinics, and other gatherings.



EDUCATOR RESOURCE CENTER

This guide was produced by the Educator Resource Center at the Nelson-Atkins. The ERC is available to support educators with a variety of programs and resources. If you are interested in learning more about ways to link museum works with classroom learning, we invite you to connect with the ERC to access:

- Curriculum consultations
- Circulating resources
- Professional development workshops

Visit nelson-atkins.org/educators/resources for more information.

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Atkins**
MUSEUM OF ART