

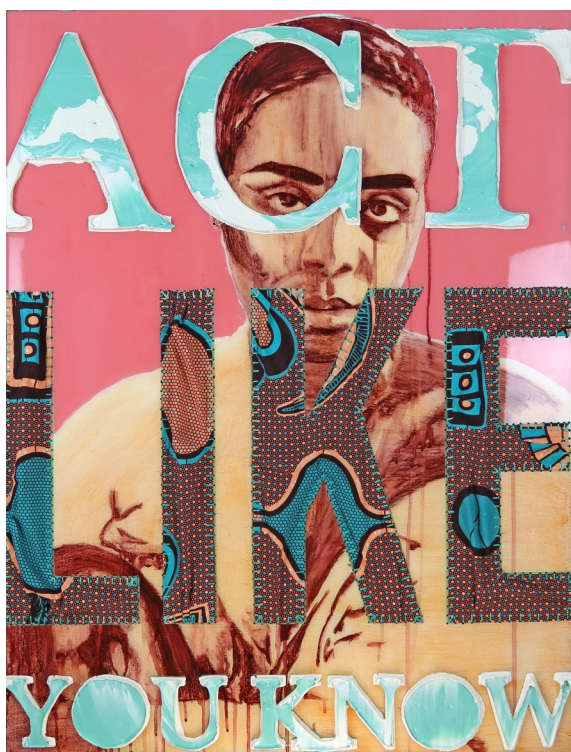
LOOKING TO LEARN

July 2021



This week we looked at *And I'm Calm, Calculated and Perfectly Aligned* by April Bey from our exhibition *She Says*, read the book *Say Something* by Peter Reynolds and made hanging statement signs, using our voices to speak up for something we care about. If you missed our program, or are looking to continue the discussion from home, here are the highlights!

SPEAKING UP: Everyone has a right to use their voice, and the words we use matter. But sometimes it is hard to know what to say or how to say it. Can you think of a time when you spoke up for something important to you? How about a time when you wanted to say something but didn't?



And I'm Calm, Calculated and Perfectly Aligned by April Bey, 2020. Watercolor drawing, acrylic paint, epoxy resin, hand-sewn "African" fabric, oil impasto. Courtesy of the artist.

AND I AM CALM, CALCULATED AND PERFECTLY ALIGNED BY APRIL BEY

Artist April Bey uses bold words in her artwork to say something she wants others to hear. Let's look closely at the work of art and ask some questions:

- What do you see? Make a visual inventory of the things you notice in the artwork.
- What do you think the artwork is about? Who is speaking these words? Who are they being spoken to?
- When this artist was young, she found it hard to "fit in" or connect with others. Sometimes, she would pretend to be an alien from another planet, like she was observing the world around her for the first time. As an adult, the artist imagines a world where people like her "fit in" and have their voices heard.
- How does it feel when people listen to what you have to say? How does it feel to be ignored or left out?
- How can we help people who feel excluded, or like their voices don't matter?

SAY SOMETHING BY PETER REYNOLDS

This book is about all the reasons we might have something important to say. Watch a read aloud of *Say Something!* with the author [here](#).

- Do you think everyone has something to say?
- What were some of examples from the book of why someone might want to say something?
- Why might some people find it hard to speak up?
- Is there a message you would like to speak up about? Something you want others to hear or know?



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ART MAKING ACTIVITY: For this activity, we are going to use our voice and creativity to speak up about something by making a sign. In the story, we saw how many different people used their voice to say something. What could you use your voice to say? Perhaps it is what you care about most, or something you think others may need to hear. Signs are made to share information or directions—they should be eye-catching and use big, bold letters so that they can be read easily. What short message can you share with others?

SUPPLY LIST:

- A wood plank, piece of cardboard, or study sheet of paper
- Decorative or patterned paper
- A glue stick
- Scissors
- A dark marker

INSTRUCTIONS:



1. Tear or cut pieces of your decorative paper and lay them out on your sign surface (the wood, cardboard or study paper) to create an interesting background.
2. Once you have a background started, you can begin to glue the paper pieces down. Make sure to glue the edges of your pieces too so that they lay down flat. Feel free to layer paper pieces on top of one another to add color or texture.

3. Come up with a word or phrase that you think is important for others to hear. What is do you care about? What is something you want others to know about it? Messages for signs are best when they are short and sweet. Try to keep your message under 5 words.



4. Write your message on your sign in pencil. When you are happy with how it looks, go over the pencil lines with a thick, dark marker to make your message really stand out.
5. Now, think about where you will put your sign! Signs are for sharing messages and ideas with others. Who do you want to read your sign? Maybe it will go on your bedroom door so your friends and family see it. Maybe it goes on your front door for visitors or your mailman to read. Or maybe it goes on a tree in your front yard as an encouraging message to your neighbors.