Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago

Contemporary art is new art made by people living and working today. It often deals with current issues that you might recognize from the news or daily life.

This guide invites kids and their grownups to explore an artwork together. It’s meant to inspire you to connect and reflect on your individual experiences and our shared world.

FAMILY ACTIVITY:
CHAMPIONSHIP BANNERS

Make a banner of your own.
Write a short message on this banner describing a feeling you want to celebrate.

What are you afraid of? What helps you overcome your fears?

Draw yourself overcoming something you are afraid of.

Welcome to the MCA!

Cheryl Pope (American, b. 1980)
I AM FEARFUL, SOMETIMES I DOUBT MYSELF, I FEEL LIKE A LEADER,
from I’VE BEEN HEARD, in collaboration with NYC Youth on Streetball, 2017
Nylon and tackle twill appliqué
60 x 36 in.
Courtesy of the artist and Monique Meloche Gallery, Chicago,
Championship banners usually celebrate winning sports teams. Maybe you’ve seen some in a school gym. These banners are a bit different.

To make them, the artist spent time talking with youth in Chicago, New York, and Ohio about inequality, injustice, and basketball. The words on these banners are quotes from those young people.

We don’t always celebrate our feelings, especially the hard ones like fear. These banners invite us to see our emotions as big, important things, like championship wins.

Have you ever felt any of the emotions described on these banners?

What makes someone a leader? Why do we need good leaders?

To doubt means to be unsure of something. You might doubt, or be unsure, that a piece of information is true or that an event is going to happen. Sometimes we even doubt our own abilities or decisions.

Find the multi-colored championship banners by Cheryl Pope hanging in the center of the MCA’s main stairwell. While you walk up the stairs, use this guide to have a conversation with your family.

Be careful while you’re on the stairs! The landings with benches at the top and bottom of the stairs are good places to sit and talk or draw.