COLLAGE FAÇADE

Deborah Roberts is an internationally recognized artist based in Austin, Texas. In her studio practice, Roberts uses found images to construct portraits of Black youth in her mixed media collages. In these works of art, she combines found photographs, drawn/painted elements, and patterned papers to complete a composition. For this project, Roberts transformed a series of collages of a young Black boy in various poses into a vinyl mural on the 7th Street side of The Contemporary Austin's Jones Center on Congress Avenue. Check out a video about this work of art here: [https://vimeo.com/491854728](https://vimeo.com/491854728)

**LOOK:** Spend time looking at *Little man, little man* by Deborah Roberts, a mural installed on the 7th Street side of The Contemporary Austin Jones Center. What do you see from afar? What do you see up close? What can you see up close, given your scale or size? What colors, shapes, patterns, or textures do you notice? What about the way the figures fit on the building?

**ASK:** When creating a work of art, artists make choices about size and subject. In this work of art, Deborah Roberts depicts a young boy in various poses. The scale of these figures is huge, meaning they are way above average human size. What happens when you make a work of art this big? What is it like to see a child depicted this large? How might the scale of these boys relate to importance, visibility, or representation?

**DISCUSS:** *Little man, little man* features collaged photographs and flat painted areas. Discuss the contrast between the clothing and the hands and faces. How does Deborah Roberts draw our attention to certain parts of the figure? Where did your eyes go first? What can faces and hands communicate, or share about what people think or feel? What might this figure be thinking or feeling, based on what you can see?

**BONUS ROUND:** Deborah Roberts shared “I wanted these collage works to demonstrate the emotional, celebratory energy of this young child as he tries to make his way into adulthood without being targeted or criminalized.” Roberts placed images of Black youth on the side of a museum in downtown Austin. Using examples from current events, discuss ways in which an artist might use his/her/their creativity and expression to raise awareness of cultural issues (or
things that are important to them). What is something you care about that should be on the side of a building?