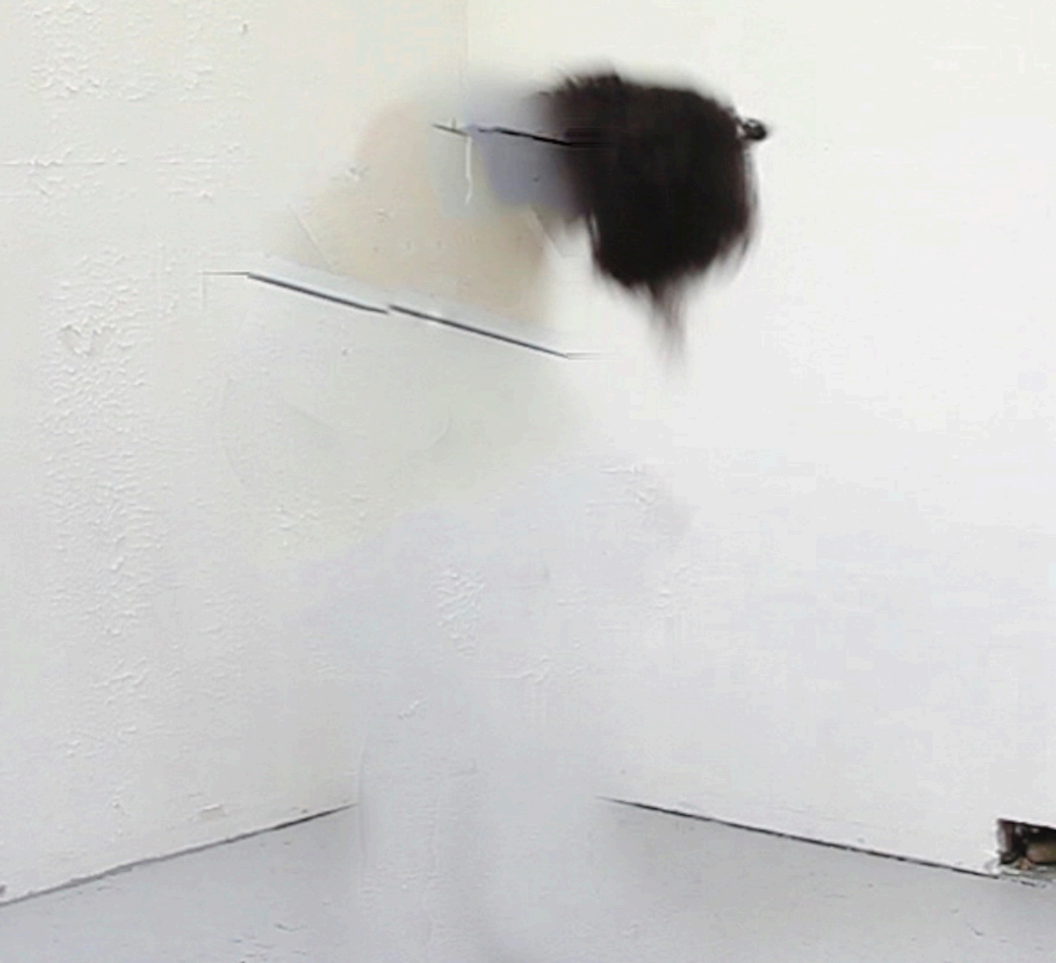


# INVISIBILITY: POWERS & PERILS



**ACTIVITY &  
REFLECTION GUIDE**

 **ART &  
SCIENCE  
COLLIDE**  
Presented by **Getty**

**OXY  
ARTS**



# ABOUT THE EXHIBITION

***Invisibility: Powers & Perils*** explores how both invisibility and **hypervisibility** impact privacy, history, and systems of knowledge on a social, environmental and **cosmic** level. The exhibiting artists, scientists and activists ask us to consider how (in)visibility can be positive and negative. This exhibition is curated by Yael Lipschutz and presented in collaboration with Getty's PST ART: Art & Science Collide.

## Artists in the exhibition are asking...

In what ways can invisibility and **hypervisibility** negatively impact **marginalized** populations? How does **surveillance** play into this?

How can we recognize the hidden causes and impacts of climate change? How can this help us better navigate the issue?

How can challenging **anthropocentric** ideas help us discover and see new things in the natural world around us?

# VOCABULARY

**Abstract** art, unlike realistic art, does not represent an accurate depiction of reality. It tends to use colors and shapes to express emotion.

**Anthropocentrism** is the belief that human beings are the most important creatures on the planet.

**An amulet** is an ornament or small piece of jewelry thought to protect or grant special powers to the one who wears it.

**Cosmos** is another word for the universe.

**Cosmic** is an adjective used to describe things that relate to the universe and outer space.

**Eco-politics** studies how the government and the environment are related to, and impacted by, each other.

**Hypervisibility** is when people are overly noticed and analyzed, usually due to having a **marginalized** identity.

**Marginalized** people are pushed to the edge of society where they have less power than those who are not marginalized. Groups are **marginalized** based on race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, class, disability, and/or religion.

**Mainstream** refers to ideas, norms, and standards accepted by most people in a society as “normal” or “status quo”.

**Radioactivity** is the energy created by atoms as they try to become more stable.

**Surveillance** is when someone is closely watched, often to prevent or investigate crime. It often violates people’s privacy.

## **FIND...**

### ***Encyclopedia of Invisibility*** **by Tavares Strachan**

This artwork is an alternative encyclopedia that includes topics that have been overlooked and forgotten by **mainstream** histories.

If you were to make your own Encyclopedia of Invisibility, what stories and topics would you include?

## **CONSIDER...**

**Stories about everyday life, non-famous people, and **marginalized** people are often left out of history.**

Are there any stories about you or your family that have not been written down?

**Science doesn't always capture the small discoveries we experience daily.**

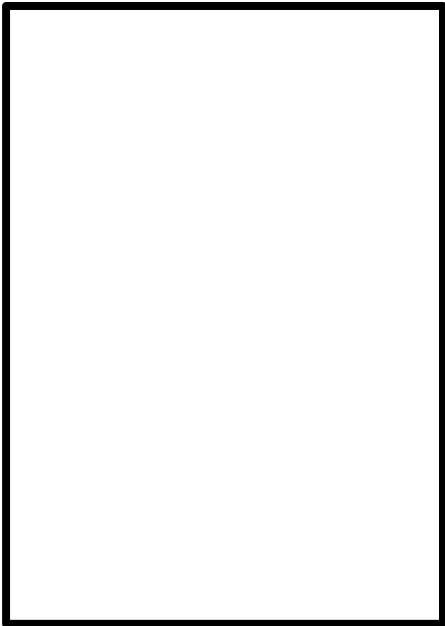
Have you made any observations about the world that you haven't heard people discuss?

# Create an entry for your Encyclopedia.

The entry can talk about any memory, fact, or story you like. You can even invent a fictional piece of history or knowledge. Start with a catchy title, draw something in the box and write your description!

**Title:**

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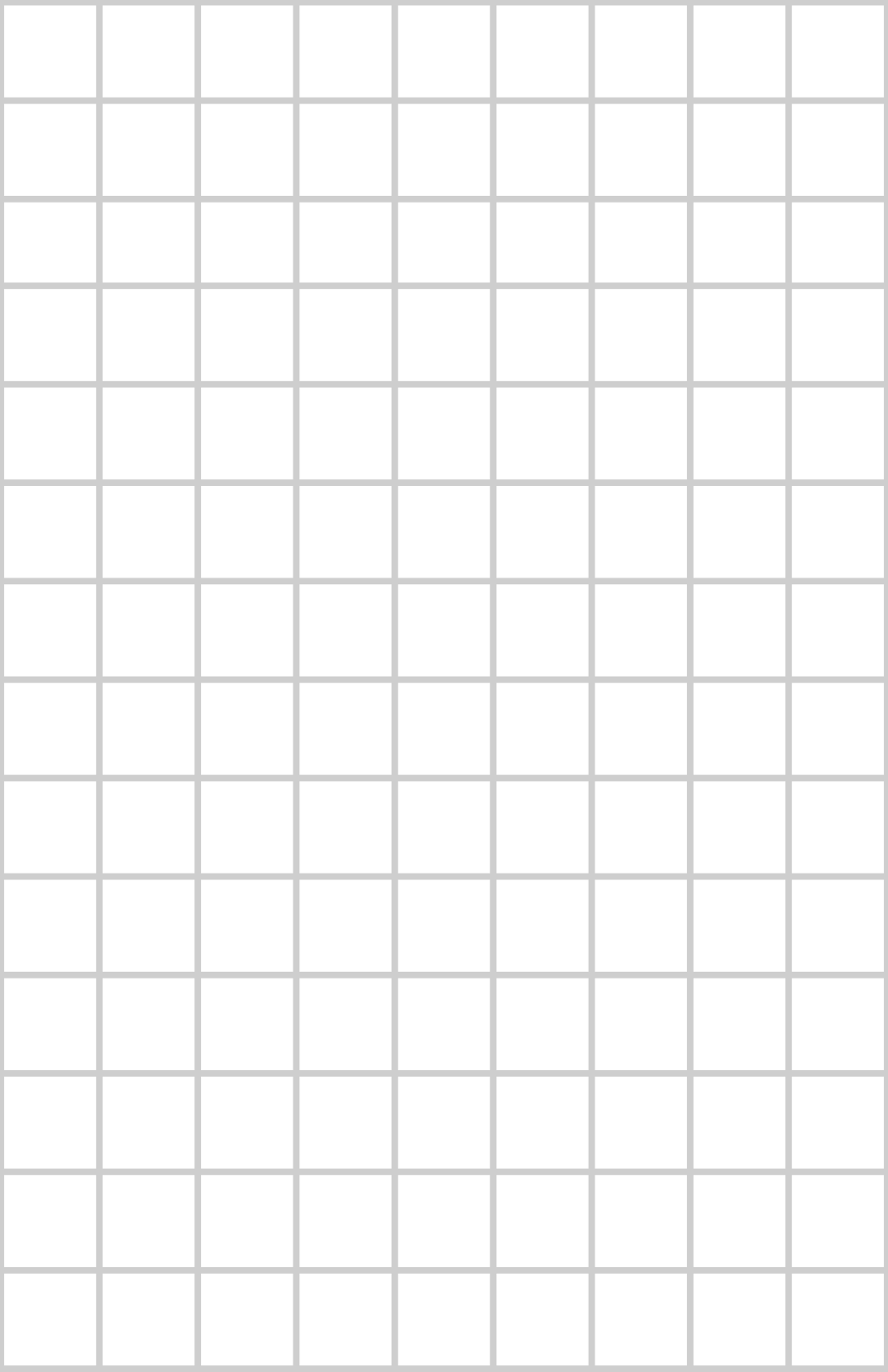
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## STEP 2:

Create your “Color Code” by assigning each number to a color. For example, 1 = yellow, 2 = blue.

### MY COLOR CODE:

|   |                      |    |                      |
|---|----------------------|----|----------------------|
| 1 | <input type="text"/> | 6  | <input type="text"/> |
| 2 | <input type="text"/> | 7  | <input type="text"/> |
| 3 | <input type="text"/> | 8  | <input type="text"/> |
| 4 | <input type="text"/> | 9  | <input type="text"/> |
| 5 | <input type="text"/> | 10 | <input type="text"/> |

## STEP 3:

Using your Color Code, and colored pencils or markers, color in each square with the number’s corresponding color.

**You have now generated an art piece based on code!**

# FIND...

## the Invisibility Amulets

**The amulet from Saribas, Sarawak**— present day Borneo, Malaysia, was collected from the medicine basket of an Iban, or medicine man. When burnt, people who sit near the fumes are thought to become invisible to evil spirits.

**The amulet from Ghana** is an “ahumu”, or head ornament, that contains a lump of “dufa” - herbal medicine pounded into a firm shape that is applied to skin through rubbing.

**The horse invisibility amulet** represents a ‘night horse’ and was used by the mbatsav secret society of the Tiv people of Nigeria. Some believe that mounting this horse could make you invisible.

**The amulet necklace from Thailand** is also believed to make the person wearing it invisible.

# INVENT AN AMULET

What special powers will your **amulet** have?

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What shape is your **amulet**?  
What is it made of?

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How do the shape and materials  
relate to the **amulet's** special powers?

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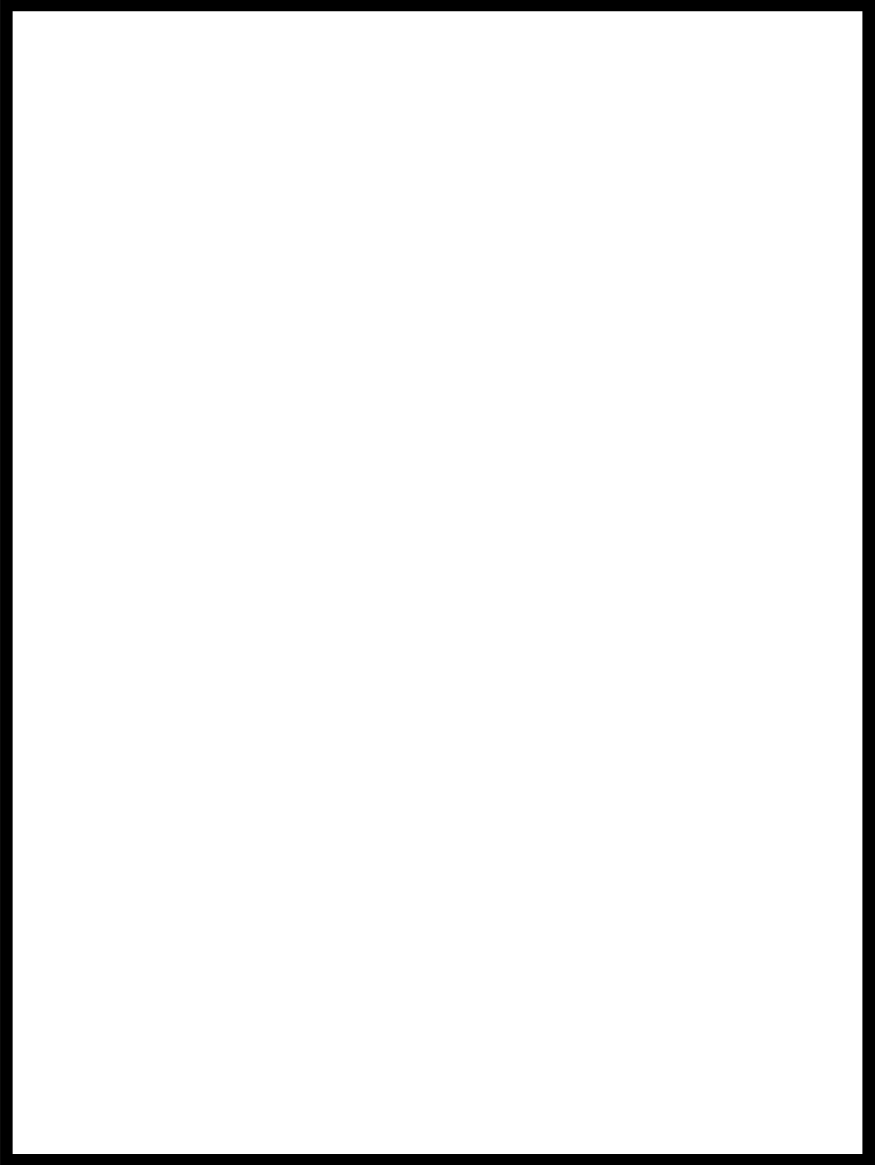
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**SKETCH YOUR AMULET:**



**Name your Amulet:**



## **FIND...**

### ***Pechblende (prologue)***

**by Susanne Kriemann**

Susanne Kriemann uses a special camera to take photos of **radioactivity** - particles that are normally invisible to the human eye. These photos allow us to see the invisible.

## **CONSIDER HOW...**

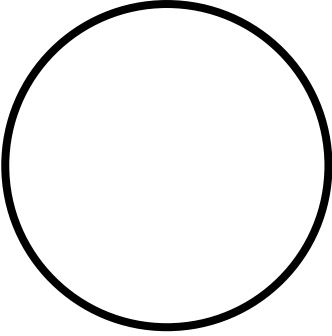
**Like radioactivity, emotions are invisible forces we cannot see.** We might see someone smile when they're happy, but we can't actually see happiness itself.

**What would happiness look like** if it was a physical object you could see? What color would it be? What shape would it be?

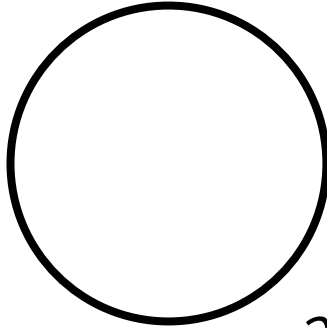
**Let's draw our emotions to find out!**  
You can draw your emotions as **abstract** shapes using one or multiple colors.

# **DRAW YOUR EMOTIONS IN THE BUBBLES**

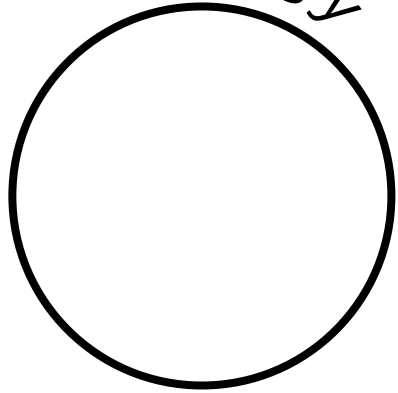
*happy*



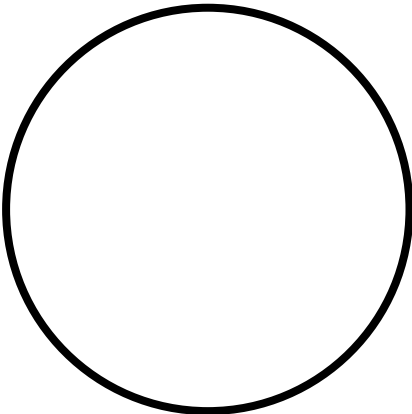
*bored*



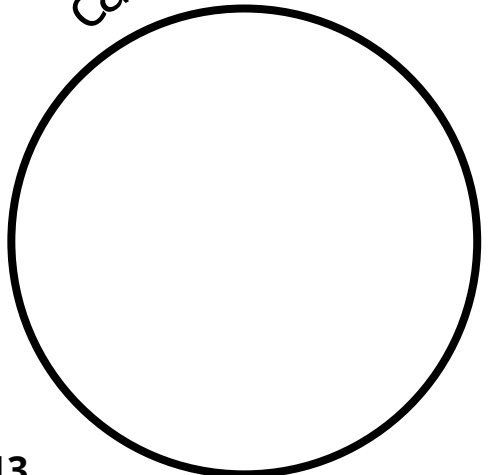
*angry*



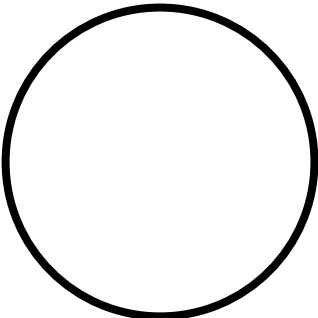
*scared*



*calm*



*sad*



**These prompts were developed by Blue Reinhard, a visual artist and OXY ARTS educator who works with the Community Studio after school art program.** The Community Studio program brings free visual art classes to local elementary schools and offers workshops for 4-8th graders at OXY ARTS.

We also have an archive of video and online lessons that you can follow along with at home! **To learn more visit [bit.ly/communitystudio](https://bit.ly/communitystudio) or follow us @oxyarts**



***Invisibility: Powers & Perils*** is among more than 70 exhibitions and programs presented as part of PST ART. Returning in September 2024 with its latest edition, PST ART: Art & Science Collide, this landmark regional event explores the intersections of art and science, both past and present. PST ART is presented by Getty. For more information about PST ART: Art & Science Collide, please visit [pst.art](https://pst.art)

