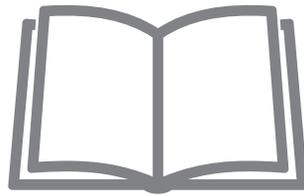


WOODMERE

ARTISTS IN BLOOM

ACTIVITY WORKBOOK FOR
AFRICA IN THE ARTS OF PHILADELPHIA

VOLUME 1



This workbook is designed to be viewed as a booklet with facing pages. To view this document as intended, please download and open the pdf. Enjoy!

WELCOME!

Woodmere's exhibition, *Africa in the Arts of Philadelphia*, brings together the work of visual artists Barbara Bullock, Charles Searles, and Twins Seven-Seven. These artists worked together and taught art at the Ile-Ife Black Humanitarian Center in north Philadelphia during the 1970s. All three celebrated their African heritage in their art by drawing inspiration from African culture and traditions.



This workbook focuses on the art of **Twins Seven-Seven**. Twins Seven-Seven was born and grew up in **Nigeria**, a country in western **Africa**, and lived in Philadelphia for many years. His art was inspired by the mythology of his **Yoruba** culture and its traditional stories, deities, and belief systems.

The inspiration of the art will help you explore how artworks tell stories that reflect cultural heritage and history. Use markers, colored pencils, crayons, oil pastels, and watercolor paints for the activities in this book.



TWINS SEVEN-SEVEN

Nigerian (active Philadelphia), 1944-2011

Winged Lion

Date unknown

Ink on paper

Woodmere Art Museum: Museum purchase, 2014

In this artwork, Twins Seven-Seven creates a creature of a “winged lion.” What powers would a lion have with wings?

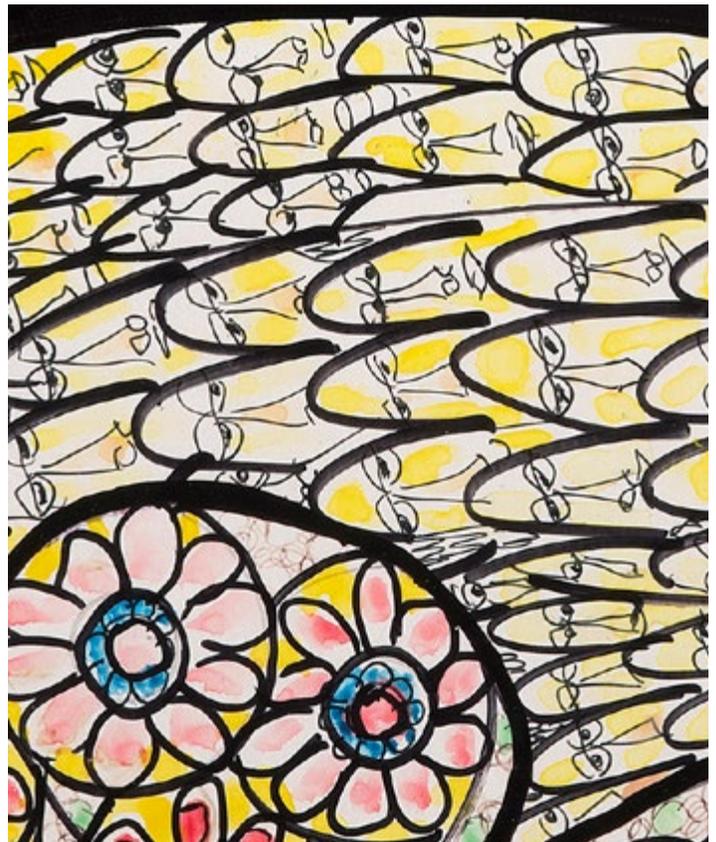
Twins Seven-Seven began by drawing the body **shapes** with thick **lines**, then filled in the shapes with highly detailed **patterns** of lines and **colors**.

Notice the patterns of flowers on its body and tail. What might be a reason Twins chose flowers for a pattern on the lion’s body?

How many faces do you see? Which face is wearing a crown? Which has a mane?

Look carefully at the details of the wings and mane. What do you see inside these shapes? Think about why the artist filled this creature with so many faces.

The Yoruba believe that ancestors are always present with the living. By painting hundreds of tiny faces throughout this “winged lion,” Twins makes us understand the connections between this creature and its ancestors.



On the next page:

Color the patterns to make your own
“winged lion.”



Create your own creature by combining two animals together. Fill it with patterns like Twins Seven-Seven.



TWINS SEVEN-SEVEN

Nigerian (active Philadelphia), 1944-2011

Oshun Whispers (Woshiper)

1988

Ink, watercolor, acrylic, and oil on cloth

Woodmere Art Museum: Museum purchase with funds generously provided by Robert and Frances Kohler, 2019

Twins's very large painting depicts a Yoruba festival that celebrates the river goddess, **Oshun**. Oshun is honored as the "owner of all the waters/bestower of children."

A river divides the painting into 6 different spaces. Look at the two large middle figures in the upper and lower spaces. Notice how they are leading groups of people to the river.

Behind, Twins paints **smaller** figures with arms stretched out. Many tiny **circles** of faces behind these figures show the large numbers of people gathering in the distance.

On the upper and lower left side, two women carry vessels. One carries it on her head. What is the other woman doing? Women carry gifts to Oshun. They also fill their vessels with the special waters of the goddess.

Look at the lower right corner. Find the monkeys in the trees reaching for bananas.

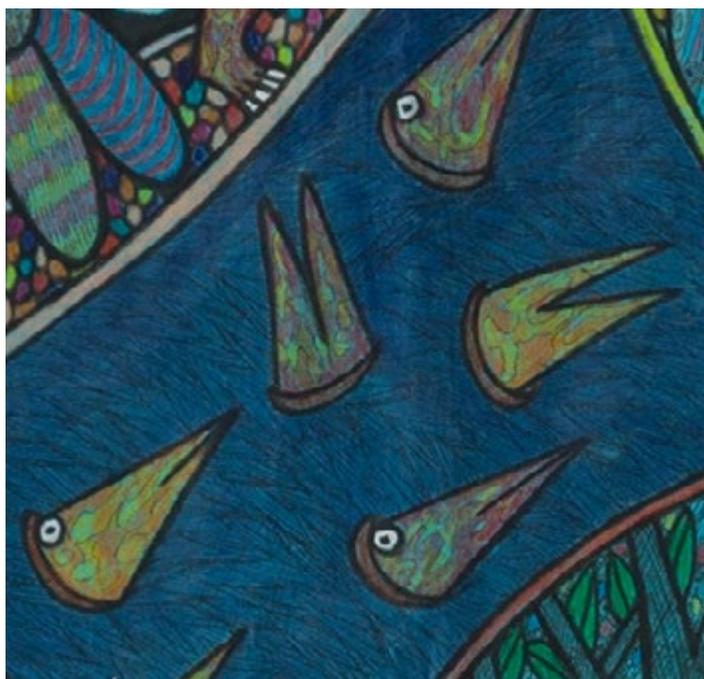
Twins uses **blue** to connect all the figures, animals, and objects. Why do you think he chose blue?

On the next page:

Find three sections from *Oshun Whispers (Woshiper)*. Fill with color.

Draw lines to create a river connecting all three images. The river can go between and all around the page.

Look how Twins draws fish in the water in the detail below. They are made of **triangle shapes** with **circle** eyes. Two triangles make an open mouth. Draw creatures that could live in your river.







TWINS SEVEN-SEVEN

Nigerian (active Philadelphia), 1944–2011

Portrait of George

2007

Ink, paint, charcoal, and crayon on canvas

Collection of George Jevremović

Twins Seven-Seven made this **portrait** of his friend, George. What we can learn about George by looking at this portrait?



George is standing in front of his house. Do you think he lives in the country or the city?



What animals do you see? These are George's pets: cats, Simba and Henry, and Smokey the dog.

What animal do you see on George's mask? Yoruba culture believes that the power to fly allows birds to visit and communicate with the world of spirits. What might Twins be saying about George by having him wear this mask?



Look below at all the **patterns** in the mask. What **colors** repeat to make a pattern of **lines** and **shapes**?



Twins Seven-Seven filled this portrait with many more patterns. Find the patterns of details in the next column.

Twins Seven-Seven said George was "always wearing two glasses. Even when he doesn't wear them. He have them hang on his neck."



Find the two sets of glasses. What could be a reason George wears two sets of glasses? What do you now know about George?

On the next page:

Add your favorite colors to this *Portrait of George*.

Create a frame for the portrait with **patterns** of **colors**, **lines**, and **shapes**.





TWINS SEVEN-SEVEN

Nigerian (active Philadelphia), 1944–2011

Dinosaur

2007

Paint on fiberglass

Courtesy of Material Culture

Twins Seven-Seven's friend, George, travels all around the world collecting objects for his Philadelphia store, Material Culture. During a trip to Pakistan, George discovered a white, 7-foot tall fiberglass dinosaur at an amusement park that was closing. He bought and brought it to his store.



Twins was excited when he saw the dinosaur and asked if he could paint it. Can you guess what George said?

Patterns of shapes, lines, and colors are painted over every space of the dinosaur. Twins also painted smaller dinosaurs on its body.



Find the small dinosaur visible in the image at the top right. What could be a reason Twins painted it on the dinosaur's body?

In the bottom image, notice the black triangles under the dinosaur's eye. What could they be showing us? Do you think this dinosaur is happy, sad, serious, scary, hungry, silly, or _____?

Twins Seven-Seven's art tells stories. What story can you imagine about this dinosaur?

On the next page:

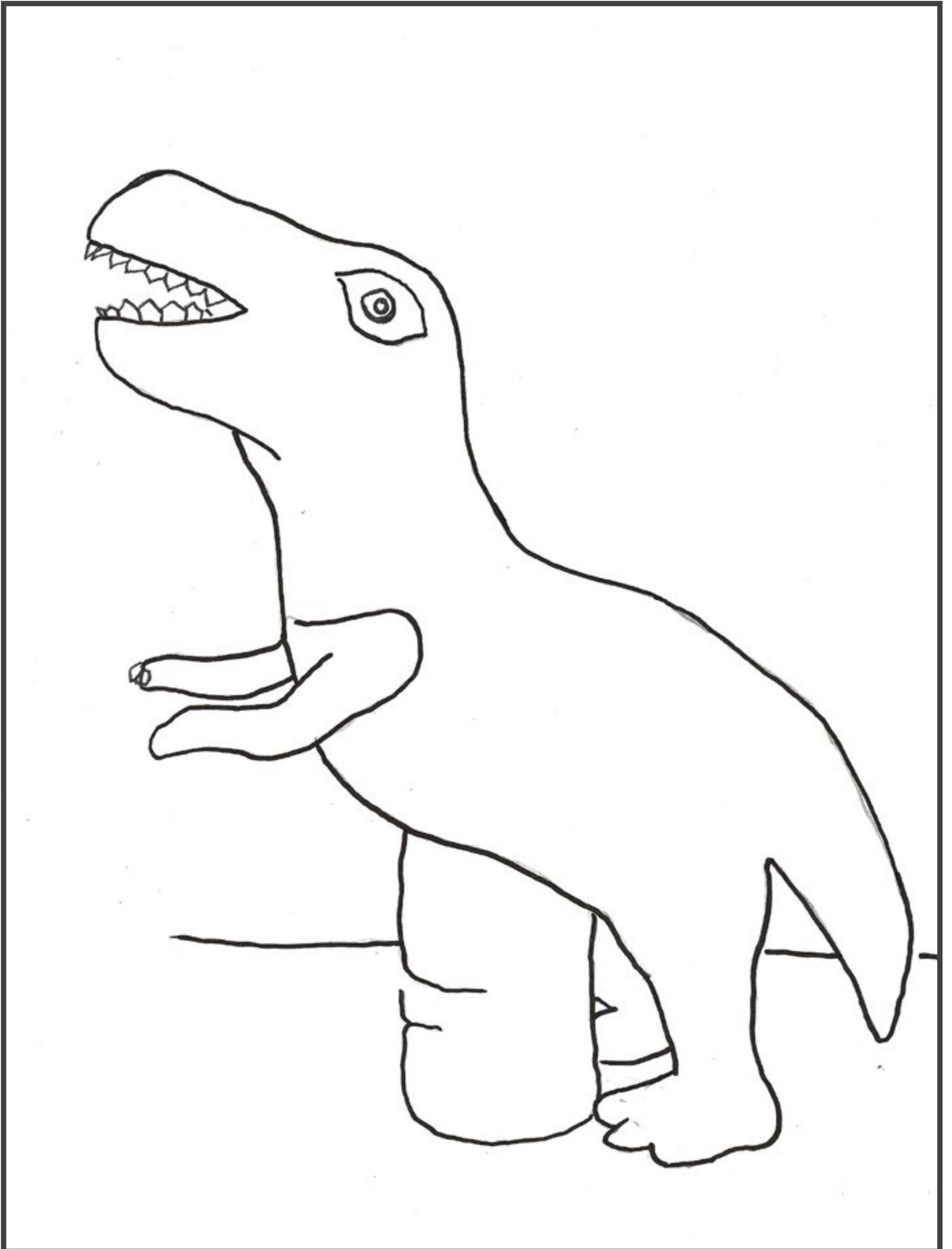
Here is a picture of the dinosaur the way Twins Seven-Seven might have first seen it.

Tell your own story about the dinosaur by drawing creatures and making up your own patterns of lines, shapes, and colors to fill its body.

Do you want to put this dinosaur in a particular place? Draw this place in the space around the dinosaur.

Or, be inspired by how Twins created patterns and creatures from the black and white picture below.







TWINS SEVEN-SEVEN

Nigerian (active Philadelphia), 1944-2011

Shopping Bag

Date unknown

Paint and marker on brown paper bag

Courtesy of Material Culture

Twins Seven-Seven was the artist-in-residence at the Philadelphia store, Material Culture. His good friend and store owner, George, asked Twins to decorate shopping bags.

Twins used markers to draw the **shape** of a bag on a bag. He then filled in the shape with **patterns** of more **shapes** and **colors**.

What shapes create a pattern on this bag?

What colors create a pattern on this bag?

How do the shapes change?

On the next page:

Create a special shopping bag.

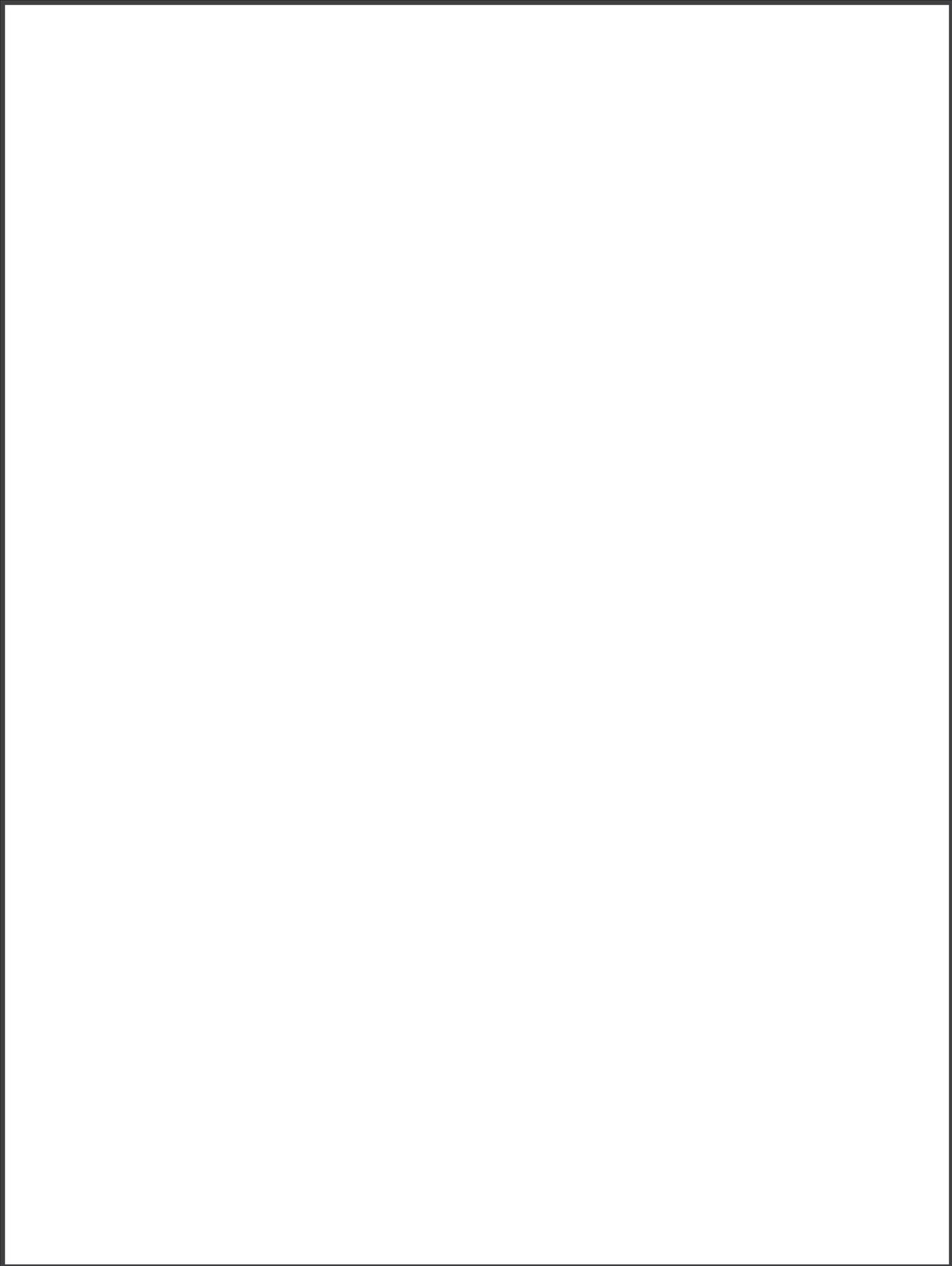
Use the rectangle on the next page to sketch out a design.

Draw an outline for a big shape. It can be a shape of anything you want.

Create patterns of other shapes or lines inside the big shape.

Find a brown paper bag. Copy your sketch on the bag and add colors.

Do you know someone who would love a specially designed shopping bag by you?



WoodmereArtMuseum
TELLING THE STORY OF PHILADELPHIA'S ART AND ARTISTS

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