

Pre-Visit Guide: 30 Americans

Big Ideas & Major Themes

Here are some relevant topics relating to the exhibition to review with your students before experiencing *30 Americans*.

- The artists whose work is gathered in this exhibition come from a wide range of backgrounds in terms of class, region, and sexuality. The collectors of this art believed the themes, questions, and experiences these artists were tackling represented the American experience.
- Many of the artists in this exhibition are referencing the past—whether the distant (though still all-too-relevant) antebellum era or the 1960s and 70s. They deal with topics ranging from trauma and violence to nostalgia, media representation, and beauty.



Kehinde Wiley. *Equestrian Portrait of the Count Duke Olivares*. 2005.

SC Standards Addressed

Visual Art CR.AL.1; R.IL.5.1; R.IM.5.1; R.AL.5.2; R.AM.5.2; C.AM.6; C.AH.7.1

In the Classroom

Prepare students for your visit with one or more of these activities.

- Engage students in a discussion about beauty and how so-called ideal standards of beauty can be exclusionary. Have students do an informal inventory of a magazine to see how many BIPOC individuals are represented in the ads.
- Watch the [Art21 video](#) on Nick Cave and his Soundsuits. Ask students to design an object that would either hide one's identity or solve a similar problem.
- Ask students to research artists who have used found or post-consumer objects in their work, either focusing on the *30 Americans* artists or not. Have students consider why that artist chose that particular material and what significance it had historically, culturally, politically, or personally.

Resources

Want to explore more? Review these references to learn and share information with your students.

- 30 Americans Digital Educator Guide [CMA] <https://www.columbiamuseum.org/learn/educators>
- 30 Americans. Rubell Museum. <https://rubellmuseum.org/30a-statement>
- Art21 Artist Directory. <https://art21.org/artists/>
- Learning for Justice lessons <https://www.learningforjustice.org/classroom-resources/lessons>

Museum Manners

School tours are limited to 60 students per visit. Contact the CMA to see whether your group is better suited for an in-person or virtual experience. Please review these guidelines with your students before your tour.

- **Please note!** This exhibition (though not the tour itself) contains nudity. Ask staff about previewing the artwork if need be.
- Touching can permanently damage works of art. Please don't touch the art or lean on the walls.
- Food, drinks, gum, pens, and large bags are not permitted in the galleries.
- Watch where you walk! Try to stay at least arms-length from works of art.

Questions? Contact us at 803-343-2163 or email tours@columbiamuseum.org

columbiamuseum.org/learn

the Columbia Museum of **ART**