Featuring Vanessa German’s Black Girl with Snakes

Step 1: Learn about the Spotlight work of art.  
Step 2: See it in real life on your own or on a tour.  
Step 3: Brainstorm your project.  
Step 4: Make something that reflects your ideas.  
Step 5: Exhibit it at the McNay!

Spotlight Learning Outcomes

• Creativity  
• Flexible thinking  
• Cooperation  
• Communication

But also...

• Friendship  
• Respect  
• Self-confidence  
• Love of the arts

Vanessa German, Black Girl with Snakes

• Vanessa German (American, born 1976) is a Pittsburgh-based self-taught citizen artist and the fourth living artist to be featured in Spotlight.  
• Made in 2020, the artist references themes of rebirth, rejuvenation, and hope in times of uncertainty and loss during the global pandemic.  
• German sources a wide range of found objects and decorative elements to create her power figures, relying on the “frequency of yes” to guide selection and placement.  
• BLACK GIRL WITH SNAKES includes porcelain figurines, fake plants, sequined snakes, mirrors, and birds all surrounding a central Black female power figure.  
• In addition to sculpture, German expresses herself through photography and spoken word.