

# There Is a Woman in Every Color Black Women in Art

## Translating Museum Labels

**Subjects:** Modern Languages

### Activity

1. **In the exhibition gallery:** Students will view and discuss the art in *There Is a Woman in Every Color: Black Women in Art*. They will learn about the purpose and format of museum labels and interpretive texts.
2. **In the classroom:** Each student will select (or be assigned) an object from the exhibition. They will be provided with a worksheet that includes the object's image, identifying label, and interpretive text. Their task will be to translate the text into another language, taking care to preserve the information and tone of the original.

**Note:** There are about 40 objects in the exhibition, and each is accompanied by a label with identifying information and interpretive text (150-200 words each). See an example below.



Benny Andrews, *Mrs. Viola Andrews—My Mother*, 1974  
oil with fabric collage on canvas  
Bowdoin College Museum of Art

Standing stoically with a staff in hand, this portrait depicts Viola Andrews, the mother of artist Benny Andrews. This collage features material elements: light-colored fabric for the hat, red corduroy fabric used for her shirt, and a stained towel directly underneath. The staff in her hand might allude to her work as a sharecropper in rural Georgia, where she and her husband raised their ten children. Benny Andrews often drew inspiration from his family's struggles as a foundation for his work. He depicted his mother in additional portraits, often seated with a book in her lap, perhaps reminding him of her devotion to education. Viola Andrews instilled in her children the importance of religion, education, and creative expression. She encouraged her son in his pursuit of art. The portrait of Viola Andrews might be interpreted as an ode to her efforts to support her family with persistence and determination.

*For assistance with facilitating or adapting this activity, contact:*

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**Art Bridges**

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