

# \* Women Artists Activity Pack \*

- Crossword Puzzle
- Word Search
- Design Your Own Postage Stamp
- Learn about Women Artists

Being **Bold**.me

Check out our blog to see images of the artists & learn more about their amazing lives! Being Bold, where we make role models visible!

# We Love Women Artists!

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T T C A C X M Q U R L U  
S B M C P Z N H L F J B P K D H K E  
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E R H S Z P I Q A T R B A N M Q B T O Z H D K Q E V  
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I C Z T A I G J N H H H K J G J O P L F U M J I K M U A W V L G U D L B J  
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V B E U G Y C P L F I D A U V R X W X T Y K Y L Q I I K Y J V E I K Z  
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Q F L H T L M I S F X S C T G U B T F E S L O V R S F Y V Z U  
X D L D P H N O G F U X G M G A C Q R E N A I S S A N C E  
K H Y Q Q N F L G B G C P E U V H R D F L C B T N Q T M E  
D L Q E R R A K H M V S Z B K G C C A O K U A U P C T  
P I E E R X G L X X T I I L O F H H X I I G V S X  
G D G D L R Y J O X H U H B L D A U P D U F T L J  
I V O B I P W V K E T C Y D U R O E W I E I J  
S M W I H S Z J C Z S C E C R U Y S C H P  
W C A B P T A S C E K N A E S Y N O M  
Q I D J V W L F L B A T V C K U W  
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K T X W Y N S W T V I  
V Q N R E Z A T I  
R C O G K Q H  
T B J X W  
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## WORD LIST:

ANGUSOLA  
ASAWA  
BAROQUE  
BONHEUR  
CASSATT

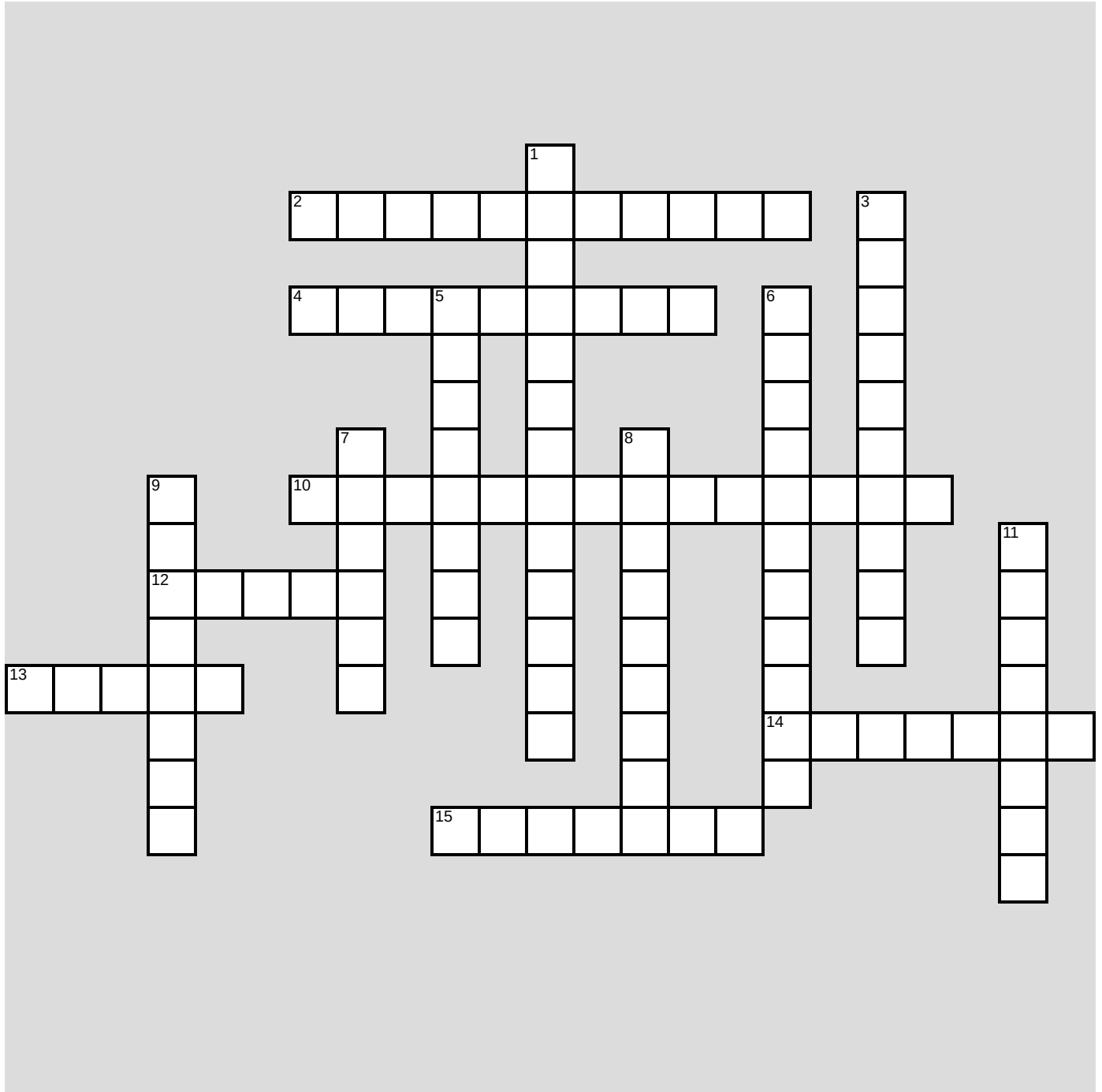
CATLETT  
CONTEMPORARY  
DUTCH GOLDEN AGE  
GENTILESCHI  
GUERRILA GIRLS

HERRERA  
KOLOWITZ  
LEWIS  
MODERN  
RENAISSANCE

RUYSCH  
THOMAS

# Artists & Styles of Art

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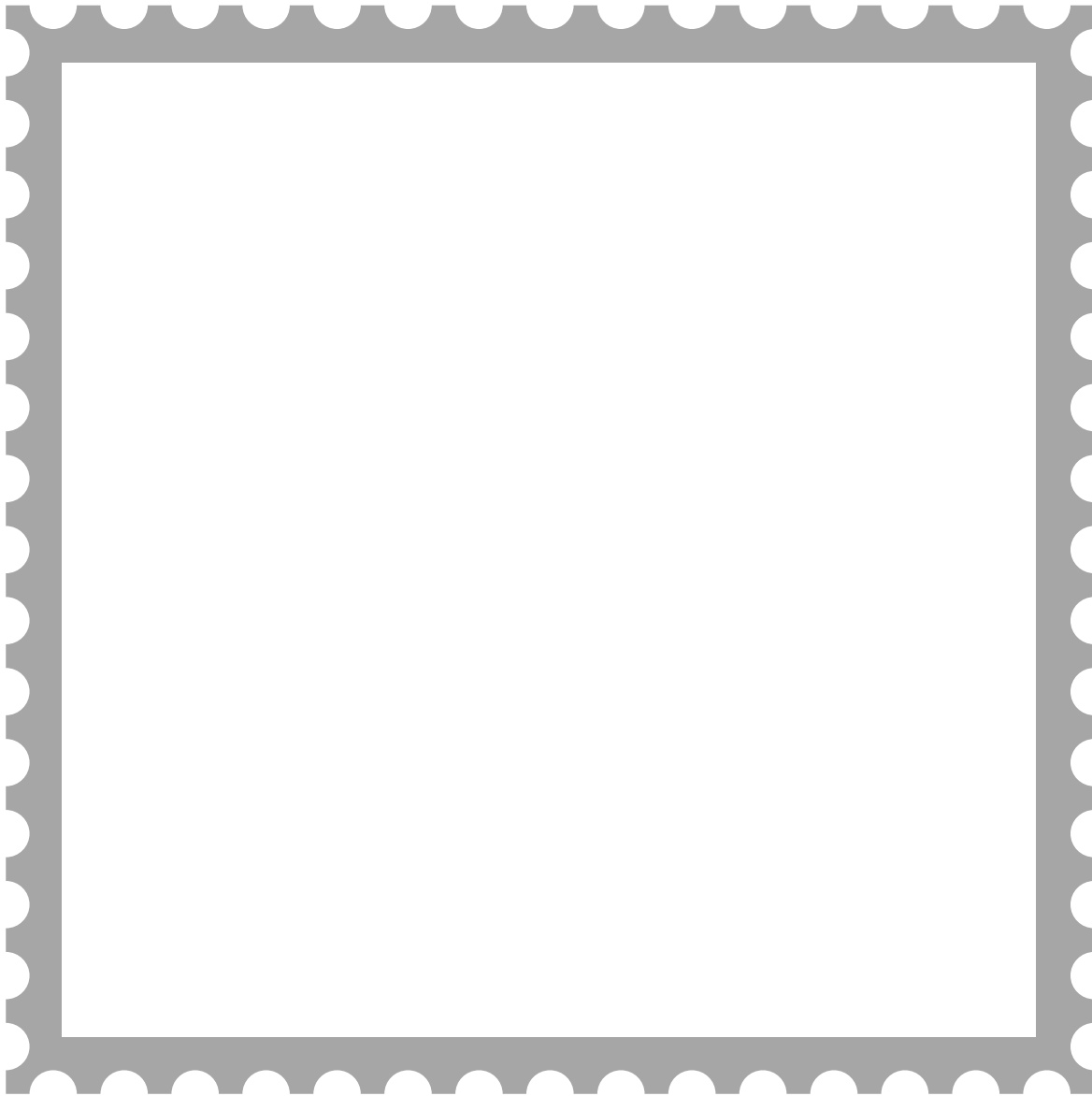
## Across

- 2** A method of art making where multiple inked impressions are made from a single original carving.
- 4** Someone who lives in a different country from the one they are a citizen of.
- 10** A group of artists and activists who wear masks and whose identities are unknown.
- 12** Black sculptor who attended Oberlin College and worked in the neo-classical style.
- 13** Wove wire into intricate hanging shapes.
- 14** Contemporary abstract painter known for painting large geometric shapes.
- 15** Expert painter of animals and landscapes.

## Down

- 1** A painter who paints in a fast, loose style that seeks to capture an impression of the scene.
- 3** A painting of objects, such as food, flowers, dishes, often arranged on a table.
- 5** A style of painting or sculpture that does like try to look like a specific object or person, but instead uses shape, color, form and texture to express an idea.
- 6** Painted stories from the bible from the point of view of the women in the paintings.
- 7** Painter who was famous for her flower paintings.
- 8** A style of painting that includes plants and landforms.
- 9** Printmaker who captured angry protesters in the streets and the sadness of grief.
- 11** A painting of a person or group of people.

**Design your own postage stamp!**  
Choose a woman artist to honor with a stamp  
and draw your design below.



# Artist Bios

Use this info. to help you do the word search and crossword puzzle!



## **Sofanisba Angusola, 1532-1625**

- Portrait painter during the Italian Renaissance.
- Fun fact: She was born in 1532 in Cremona, Italy to a family of minor nobility. Her father, Amilcare, saw that all the children – all seven of them! – received a comprehensive education, including learning to read Latin and the arts, and “encouraged all of his children’s artistic pursuits,” according to the website of the National Museum of Women in the Arts. This was very unusual for girls, at the time.
- Famous painting: The Chess Game, 1555.

## **Artemesia Gentileschi, 1593-1656**

- Renaissance history painter, who painted stories from the Bible as well as portraits.
- Training: Trained primarily by her father, a successful painter.
- Fun Fact: Artemesia is important is that she painted stories from the bible as no man artist ever had. She painted the women heroines of the bible as strong and brave. Often, male artists painted women as pretty little things, too weak to actually carry out the heroic task they do in their bible story.
- Famous Painting: Judith Cutting off the Head of Holofernes, 1613.

## **Rachel Ruysch, 1664-1750**

- Dutch flower painter who is known for her amazing detail and accuracy. She was the first financially successful artist of her time period, the Baroque period. She was born into a wealthy family that included artists, architects and scientists.
- Training: Like most early women artists, her father gave her access to important training. Though in this case it wasn’t painting training, her father was a professor of surgery, anatomy and botany and a large collection of specimens. As a girl, she would help him organize and catalog his collection and became fascinated with insects. Her father encouraged her to make careful observations of the natural world.
- As a teen she began to train with a still life painter. (A still life painting is a grouping of objects, such as flowers, food, fruits, arranged on a table or surface. It doesn’t include any people.)
- Fun Fact: She had ten children! While it was customary for married women of her social class not to work, she was so successful, and earned so much money, that she was able to continue.
- Fun Fact: While at first glance Rachel Ruysch’s paintings look pretty, when you look more closely, you see insects, holes in the leaves of flowers, a hidden face in an urn. Many still life paintings include details to remind us that life is fleeting (and therefore to make the most of it, and live a good life). Her insects are all accurate, making her paintings of interest not only to art lovers, but to scientists as well.

## **Rosa Bonheur, 1822-1899**

- Training: Primarily by her father.
- Fun Fact: Imagine you're going to walk out into pastures to draw horses and sheep from life, or to the slaughter house, to see what the muscles of animals look like under the skin (better to paint them) but you have to do it in a long skirt, that brushes the ground. Artist Rosa Bonheur faced just that problem with skirts. But the problem was, it was illegal in Paris to wear pants. Unless you got permission from the police. So she did!
- Fun Fact: She was incredibly famous and successful in her lifetime, and even had a painting commissioned by the Empress Eugénie of France. That painting was Sheep by the Sea.
- She painted animals because women at the time weren't allowed to draw or paint nude people, which was necessary to learn about muscles and the body. Well, proper ladies weren't allowed to. And proper ladies were the only ones with the money and resources to get trained as artists.
- Famous Painting: One of her most famous paintings is called The Horse Fair. She worked on The Horse Fair for year and a half, visiting a horse market in Paris twice a week to sketch the horses. The painting is 96 1/4" x 16 ft, 7 1/2 inches. So that's about 8 feet tall by about 16 and half feet long!

## **Edmonia Lewis, 1844-1907**

- Mary Edmonia Lewis was a sculptor in America at a time when it was difficult for any woman to be a sculptor, and significantly more difficult for a Black woman to do so. Author Kirsten Pai Buick, author of the book Child of the Fire, about Edmonia Lewis, says that Edmonia was "the first documented woman of African and Native American descent to work abroad as an artist."
- She worked in a style called neo-classical. Classical art means Greek, so think of white marble sculptures of standing figures, or busts (just the head, or head and shoulders). Neo means new, so neo-classical means that the style of making sculptures in the Greek style had come back and was new again. One of her largest works is called the Death of Cleopatra.
- Famous Sculpture: Edmonia "Lewis's best-known work in her lifetime was the Death of Cleopatra, a twelve-foot tall sculpture weighing two tons that took four years to execute. Exhibited at the 1876 Centennial, Cleopatra was called 'the grandest statute in the exposition.' Today it is one of her many lost works." (Heller, Women Artists, p. 87) Except that it's not lost, it's in the Smithsonian American Art Museum, on the 3rd floor, I went there and saw it myself!

## **Mary Cassatt, 1844-1926**

- Mary Cassatt was a wealthy American woman who is known for painting other wealthy women in (more or less) proper places – at home, with children, at the opera. At first glance, you might think she was proper herself. But in fact, she was disregarding a lot of the things that she was "supposed" to do, as a lady of her social standing.
- Training: She began her artistic training at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts when she was 16, but left the program to go to Europe to study on her own. She went to the Louvre in Paris where she would copy masterpiece paintings. Does that sound like cheating? That was the usual way to learn to paint at the time!
- Fun Fact: She never married and never had children. (Which of course, is totally fine, we're just mentioning it as an example of how she didn't do what was expected her at the time.)

- Cassatt lived a long life in France, staying friends with Impressionist painters, including her good friend Claude Monet, and eventually her parents realized she was never going to move back to America, so they moved to France with her. She was an expatriot, which is what someone is called when they live for a long time in another country.
- Fun Fact: Do you know why this style of paintings were called Impressionist? An art critic wrote a review of the first art show by the painters in this circle of friends painting in this new, faster, looser style. The art critic said that the paintings weren't so much pictures of a thing as they were mere "impressions" of a thing. The art critic meant it as an insult, but the painters took it on as their name!

### **Kathë Kolowitz, 1867-1945**

- Kathë Kollowitz (say the W like a V), is known for her prints that protest a social situation from her times, or show the profound grief of a parent whose child has died.
- Print making was a choice that she made. She was trained as an artist in many disciplines. She could paint, draw, sculpt. But she chose print making in order to make a statement. A print is made when you create an original, through one method or another, and then you can make
- many, many copies of that original. This means that those "copies" or "prints" are much more affordable and regular people can afford them.
- Only rich people can afford to have a custom oil painting made for their home, mansion or castle, but almost everyone can afford a print.
- Famous Art: Two of her most famous print series are called The Weavers and Peasant War. Peasant War shows people protesting a bread shortage. In those prints she captures the feelings of hunger and desperation in their faces.
- Many artist choose to paint pretty things: party scenes, going on a boat ride, a picnic, an evening at the opera. Kollwtiz did not. She used the power of her art to get people to see things they needed to see. She wanted them to see the poor, the hungry, the grief of the death of a child, the pointlessness of war.



## **Carmen Herrera, 1915-Present**

- While her work may seem simple at first glance, a lot of thought, planning and preparatory drawings go into her abstract paintings.
- Training: She was born in Cuba in 1915 and went to Paris to study art as a teenager. She studied architecture at the University of Havana in the 1930s, but the political upheaval in Cuba at that time made her decide to emigrate to the U.S., where she settled in New York City, where she still lives.
- Another trip to Paris, this one in 1948, exposed her to “non-representational” or abstract art by artists such as Josef Albers and Jean Arp, who were part of the “Salon of New Realities” group.
- Fun Fact: She sold her first painting at the age of 89. Prior to that, she experienced discrimination because of being a Latina artist and a woman. After being included in an important art show at age 89, in 1984, art museums recognized her talent and began buying her art for their collections.
- Fun Fact: In addition to her work experimenting with abstraction, she also made works that questioned the canvas. Why did a painting need to be a rectangle? or a square? She made works that were round, that had space cut out of the middle, or was painted on a 4 inch deep piece of wood, with sections removed.

## **Elizabeth Catlett, 1915-2012**

- Printmaker and sculptor Elizabeth Catlett was part of the Harlem Renaissance, which was a time in the 1920s when many Black people were living in Harlem, New York city, creating all kinds of new art and writing.
- Training: Her grandparents had been enslaved, and her own father was a college professor. She attended Howard University in Washington D.C. and later went to graduate school in sculpture at the University of Iowa.
- During the depression, she worked for a short time for the Works Progress Administration, as a muralist, where she became aware of the works of Mexican muralist Diego Rivera. In 1946, she went to Mexico and studied printmaking at Taller de Gráfica Popular, which ended up changing the course of her life, as she later moved to Mexico and later became a citizen (in 1962).
- Famous Prints: She made prints of both famous Black people, including Harriet Tubman and Malcolm X, as well as of regular people and workers. Some of her most well known works are of laborers in the fields.
- Quote: She said of her art, “I have always wanted my art to service my people – to reflect us, to relate to us, to stimulate us, to make us aware of our potential. We have to create an art for liberation and for life.”

## **Ruth Asawa, 1926-2013**

- Unconventional sculptor who created a new form of art, hanging sculptures made of wire that she described as drawing in the air.
- Early life and training: Ruth Asawa was born in California to parents who had emigrated there from Japan. She had six siblings. Her parents were farmers and due to discriminatory laws at the time, they were not allowed to become citizens or buy land in California.
- In 1942, Asawa and her family were sent to internment camps. Ruth, her mother and siblings were taken and interned first at the Santa Anita Racetrack, where they had to live in a horse stable for six months. "The smell of horse dung never left the place the entire time we were there." While there, she learned to draw from Japanese-American animators who had worked for the Walt Disney Company.
- From there, she and her family were moved to a more permanent camp in Arkansas. A teacher in the camp encouraged her to go to college, and she got a scholarship from the Quakers which made it possible for her to attend college in Wisconsin, where she studied to be a teacher.
- From Wisconsin, she traveled to North Carolina, where she attended Black Mountain College, an experimental college and community. She started out planning only to spend one summer there, but ended up staying for three years. The community and people there had a profound influence on her life and art and she also met her future husband there.
- It was during her time at Black Mountain College that she went to Mexico one summer to teach drawing. There, as the story goes, she saw the Mexican technique of making baskets by using crocheting. Upon her return, she used that method, in wire, to make her forms.

## **Alma Thomas, 1891-1978**

- Abstract painter who had a career as a teacher first, and perfected her own abstract painting style after she retired. She exhibited her first abstract painting at the age of 75.
- If you can name one abstract painter, he's probably a man. But women painted abstractly too, and in fact the first artist to achieve abstraction in a painting was a woman, artist Lee Krasner. Sometimes it may seem like only men were abstract painters, but it's not true. There are and were many women who painted in this new style that developed after World War II.
- So what's abstraction? A realistic painting is one where you can tell what it's a picture of. That was the only style of painting for centuries. Then, in the 1900s, people started to look at the world, and the purpose of art and painting differently. Why paint in a representational way, when photography existed now?

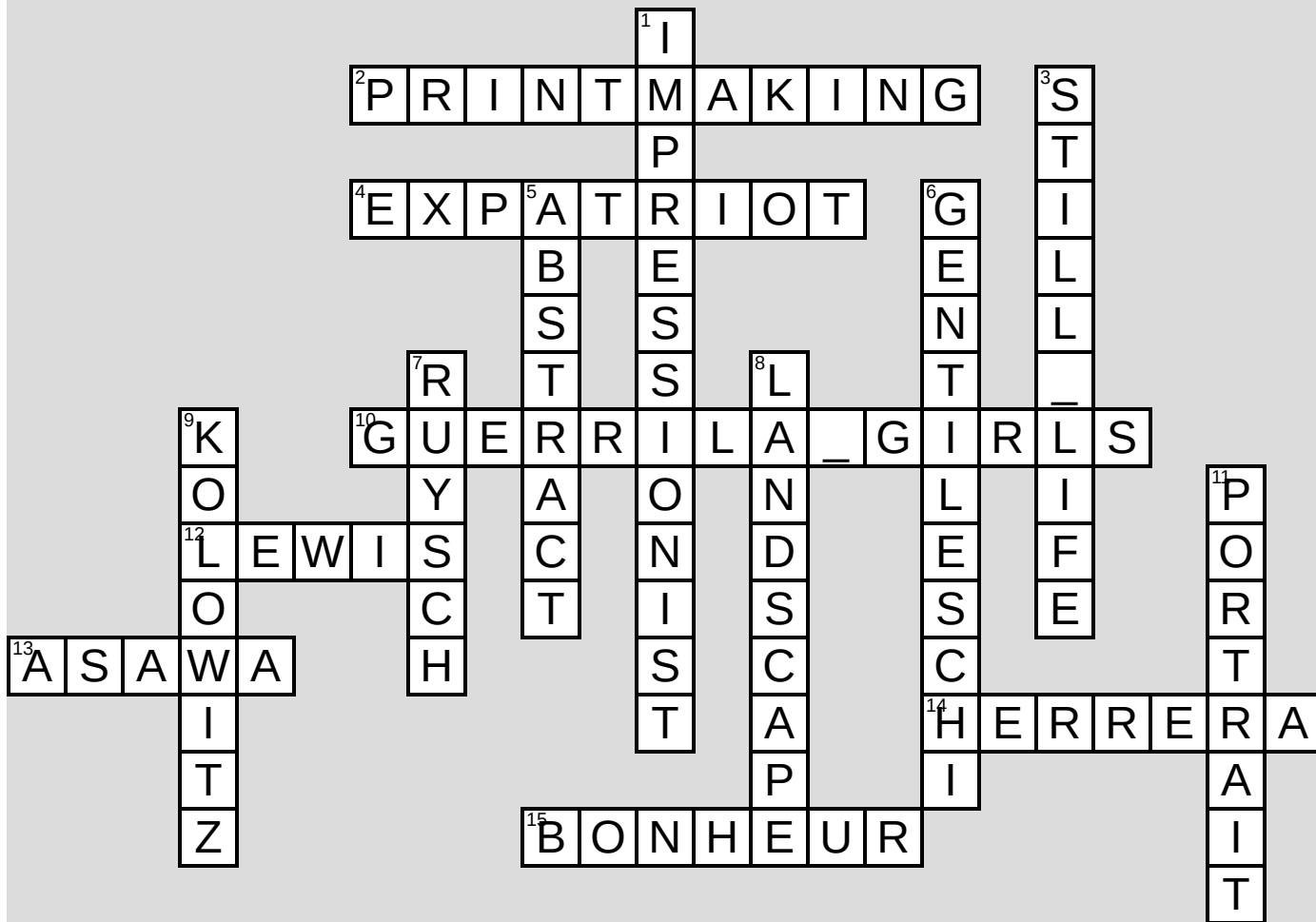
- Famous Paintings: Two of her important bodies of work are her “Earth” paintings which were inspired by nature, and her “Space” paintings inspired by moon landings.
- According to the National Museum of Women in the Arts, “Thomas became an important role model for women, African Americans, and older artists. She was the first African American woman to have a solo exhibition at New York’s Whitney Museum of American Art, and she exhibited her paintings at the White House three times.”

### **Guerrilla Girls, 1985-Present**

- Every other artist we have talked about so far is just one person. The Guerrilla Girls are a group of women, but nobody knows who they really are. Each woman in the group takes the name of a famous woman artist and only appears in public wearing all black and a gorilla mask! They use art to draw attention to unequal treatment of women artists in museums, auction houses and the art world in general.
- Why a gorilla mask? One, to get attention, because people were ignoring women artists and two, because maybe some of them have important jobs at universities or museums, and they could get fired from their jobs if they were found out as Guerrilla Girls.
- Fun Fact: What does Guerrilla mean? Guerrilla warfare is a type of warfare that developed in the early 19th Century. It was also being used in South America in the 1980s. Small bands of rebel fighters were battling government forces, who had more soldiers and more weapons. Fighting using the “traditional rules of war,” wouldn’t have worked for those small bands of fighters. They used what came to be known as guerrilla warfare methods, hiding in the jungle and using sneak attacks.
- The Guerrilla Girls used the same concept—fighting for more inclusion of women artists in museums—but they realized the “traditional rules of war,” or getting attention, rights and inclusion, weren’t working. So they changed to fighting in a different way. They knew they couldn’t win by “playing by the rules,” so they made up their own rules.
- They used the power of graphic design, plus research and facts and figures, to prove their points about how museums show way more art by men than women. And way more white men than anyone else, and the least amount of work by people of color and women of color.

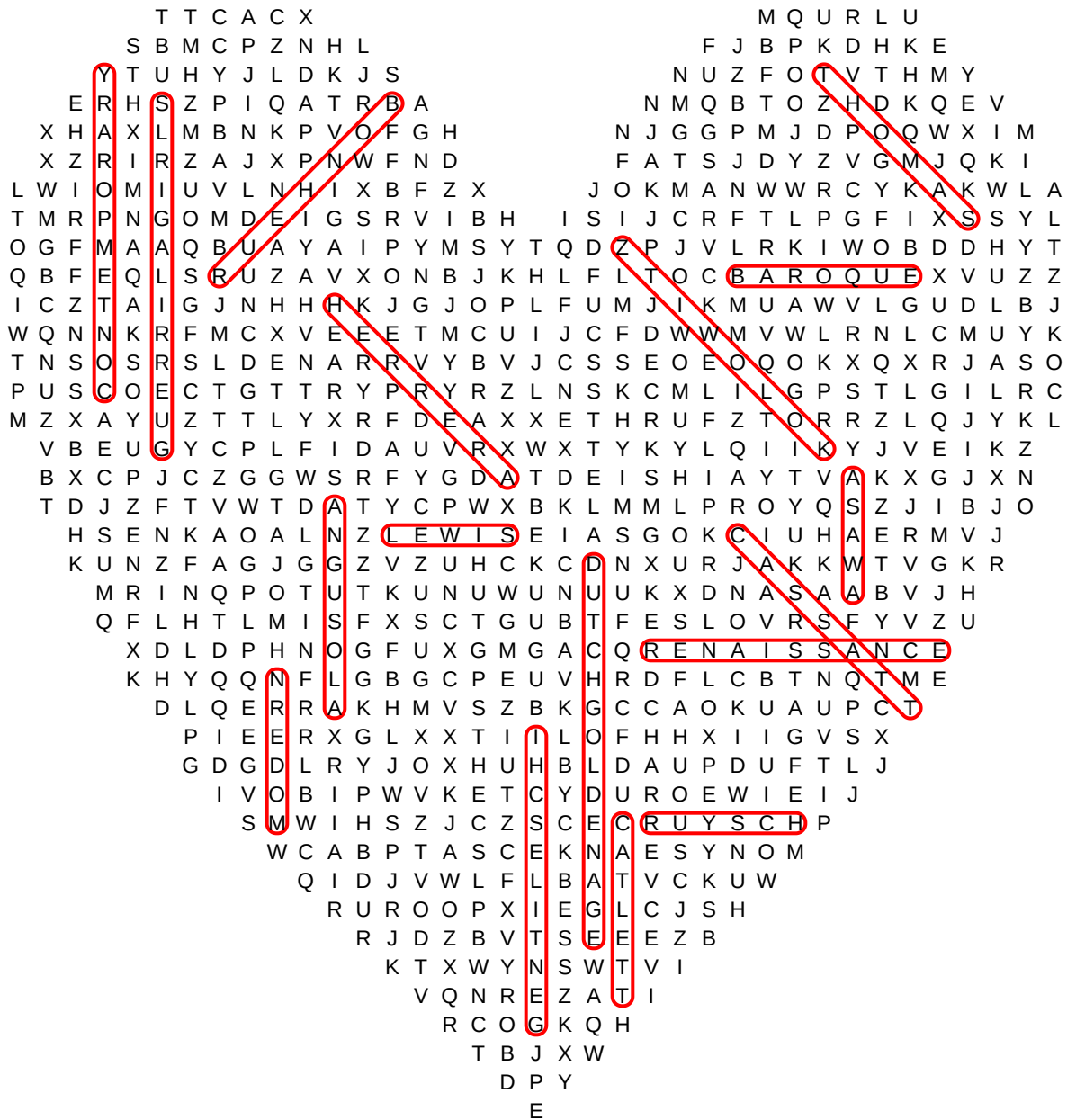
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## WORD LIST:

ANGUSOLA  
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CASSATT

CATLETT  
CONTEMPORARY  
DUTCH-GOLDEN-AGE  
GENTILESCHI  
GUERRILA-GIRLS

HERRERA  
KOLOWITZ  
LEWIS  
MODERN  
RENAISSANCE

RUYSCH  
THOMAS