

# poetic poetic poetic poetic poetic justice justice justice justice

## Finding and Combining

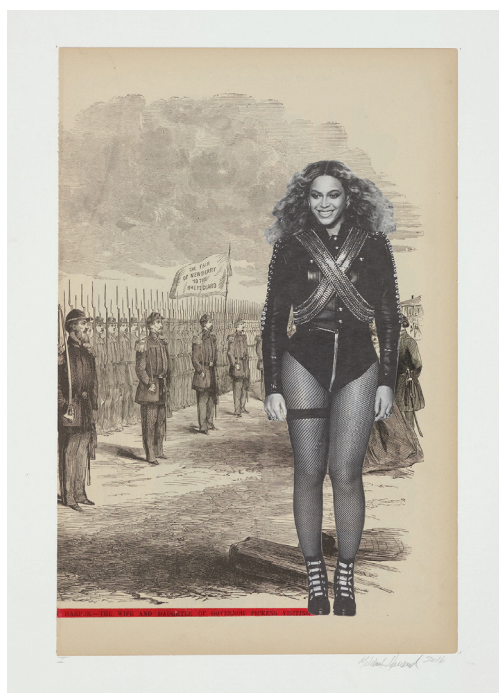
**Mildred Howard** works with found objects to create her artwork. Every artwork by Mildred Howard in the exhibition combines object or images to create new meaning, deliver a message, or evoke a mood or feeling. In her series *Millennials & XYZ*, the artist uses the chine-collé process to collage pictures together. The artist is printing images of young people representing contemporary generations over newspaper pages from the 1940s.

In Howard's artwork *I've Been a Witness to This Game I*, contemporary musician and superstar, Beyoncé is shown dressed for her performance for the 50th Super Bowl against a backdrop of a lithograph titled *Review of South Carolina Volunteer Troops in Fort Moultrie, Charleston Harbor—The Wife and Daughter of Governor Pickens Visiting the Troops*. The artist has highlighted in red the text from the regiment illustration which reads, "\_\_\_\_\_ Harbor—The wife and daughter of Governor Pickens visiting."

- **Look at the printed images and the found papers they are placed on. Are there meanings derived from the juxtaposition of the text with the pictures?**
- **In *Millennials & XYZ #XIV* what are the headline and articles in the newspaper about?**
- **In *I've Been a Witness to this Game I*, what is similar between the historic and contemporary pictures and what is different?**



**Mildred Howard, *Millennials & XYZ #XIV*, 2014, monoprint and digital print on collaged found papers. Collection of Jordan D. Schnitzer, image: Strode Photographic, LLC. © Mildred Howard**



**Mildred Howard, *I've Been a Witness to this Game I*, 2016, monoprint and digital print on collaged found papers. Collection of Jordan D. Schnitzer, image: Strode Photographic, LLC. © Mildred Howard**

In the artwork titled *Tha Dogg*, Mildred Howard uses objects as symbols. *Tha Dogg* is a model train with box cars made from banking safety deposit boxes. Safety deposit boxes are used to safely store precious and valuable items at banks. These boxcars have the names of historically African American neighborhoods painted on them.

In the same way that objects can be modified to act as symbols words can sometimes be played with to evoke multiple meanings and relay messages. In the work *Square Meal* the bronze casting of a child's hand is clutching an old-fashioned school lunch box. Playing off the square shape of the lunchbox the artist is pointing out that this is a meal in a square container. However, when we say "square meal" we usually mean a large and healthy meal rather than one that is square in shape.



**Mildred Howard, *Tha Dogg*, 2021**, model train with customized safety deposit boxes. Courtesy of the artist

- **In *Tha Dogg*, what do you think the artist is saying by painting these neighborhood names on the safety deposit boxes?**
- **What is something that you would store in a safety deposit box?**
- **Many students have their main meal of the day at school. In *Square Meal*, do you think the artist is commenting on nutrition?**



**Mildred Howard, *Square Meal*, 2021**, cast bronze and found object. Courtesy of the artist

## NOTEWORDY

**Chine-collé** is a process that uses a printing press to adhere two different types of paper together

**Collage** is the combining of various materials together to create one image. The final artwork is also called a collage.

**Juxtaposition** is the placement of two or more things together for contrast.