

FAMILY ACTIVITY GUIDE

LIMINAL SPACE



Damali Abrams, *Untitled (MerCouple)*, detail

WELCOME TO CCCADI!

This family guide was created with young audiences in mind, ages eight to twelve for exploring the Caribbean Cultural Center African Diaspora Institute's (CCCADI) new and exciting exhibition, Liminal Space. This exhibition features the artwork of sixteen Guyanese artists. Children with adults can together use this guide to explore and document their art experience through viewing, writing, and fun activities. We believe learning about the history and art of this African Diaspora community will help you to better understand just how varied and brilliant our cultures and creative expressions are around the world. As you walk through the exhibition, be inspired. Explore and embrace your creativity and brilliance!

Dan'etta Jimenez,
Director of Education

SPECIAL NOTES

Completing your own self-guided tour will take approximately 50 minutes based on the chosen works within this guide, or you may explore the entire exhibition over different visits.

REMEMBER...

Artworks are unique, and often delicate, one-of-a-kind pieces. **PLEASE DO NOT TOUCH.**

Only use pencils, not pens in the exhibition spaces.

Use your inside voice for communicating your ideas, and when speaking to each other.

WHERE IN THE WORLD IS GUYANA?

Guyana is a country located in South America, and borders the Caribbean Sea at its northern boundary. Last colonized by the British, which they in turn gained from the Dutch, Guyana is the only English-speaking country in South America. Due to this history, and proximity, it has had a long relationship and association with many island-nations in the Caribbean. The communities of Guyana have come to mostly reflect those who were brought to work plantations for the British sugar trade, Africans as enslaved workers beginning in the 1600's, and later indentured contract workers brought in from India, and China after enslavement was abolished in 1834. Guyana gained its independence from Great Britain in 1966.



What two countries border Guyana to its west? What national language is spoken in each of those countries?

Below, complete this list of a few English-speaking Caribbean island-nations to Guyana's North.

J _____

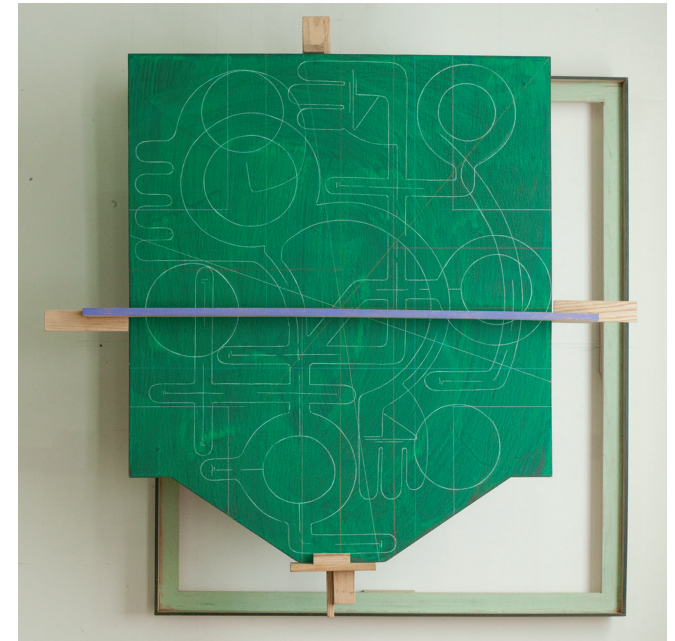
B _____

B _____

T _____ & T _____

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

In major U.S. cities, and communities, such as Chicago, Portland, New Orleans, East Los Angeles, and even right here in East Harlem, primarily African American, Chicano, and Puerto Rican people are being displaced from newly desired land areas. They are often forced to move far away from their home communities because renting, or buying a home becomes unaffordable, jobs are difficult to find, schools are underfunded, or other city resources to support their communities has been greatly reduced. Residents of Guyana have too experienced displacement from their country due to similar reasons in the past few decades.



In much of the art you will see, many of the artists have created images which highlight memories of their home, Guyana, and in various ways, the artists share their life experiences, their family and childhood stories, and display their Guyanese national pride.

Let's Look at Some Art! *Locate the art, Drawing Structures* Look carefully at the piece.

Much of the work by artist, Andrew Lyght displays drawings and shapes influenced by the petroglyph carvings by the Timehri peoples of Guyana. He also draws on a time in his childhood of constructing and designing kites.

Describe how might you see both inspirations in this artwork?

Locate the art, *Mercouple*. Look carefully at the image.

This collage by artist, Damali Abrams is rooted in fantastical images based on Guyanese stories her mother told her about mermaids when she was a child. She uses images of different ideas rooted in global myths and folklore to explore a beautiful future for Black people that is safe, free, and filled with love that spans across landscapes of seas, and even into outer space.

Below, write, describe, and name the not so mythical Mercouple shown in the image. 300 years into the future, who might they be? What is the world like where they live? Let your creativity flow! When finished, read your description to a friend, or your accompanying adult.



Locate the art, *El Dorado After All*. Look carefully at the image.

The artist, Suchitra Mattai creates inspired landscapes formed by using various textiles, with natural and man-made materials, much of which is connected to her own family's cultural traditions as weavers, needlepoint workers, and masters of embroidery. This art piece is inspired by the mythical place of El Dorado, a kingdom imagined to have existed in the Americas during the times of the Spanish Conquistadors. It was desperately sought out for what was thought to be its vast riches of gold. And for over 300 years, this quest actually included parts of what is now Guyana. This artwork interprets how Guyana's landscape has been seen by many as an "El Dorado".



Some natural landscapes on Earth are deserts, rainforests, and mountains.

Find and circle additional natural landscapes found on our planet in the word group.

GLACIAL

WETLANDS

SOLAR

CEMENT

LUNAR

PLAINS

FORESTS

ORCHARDS

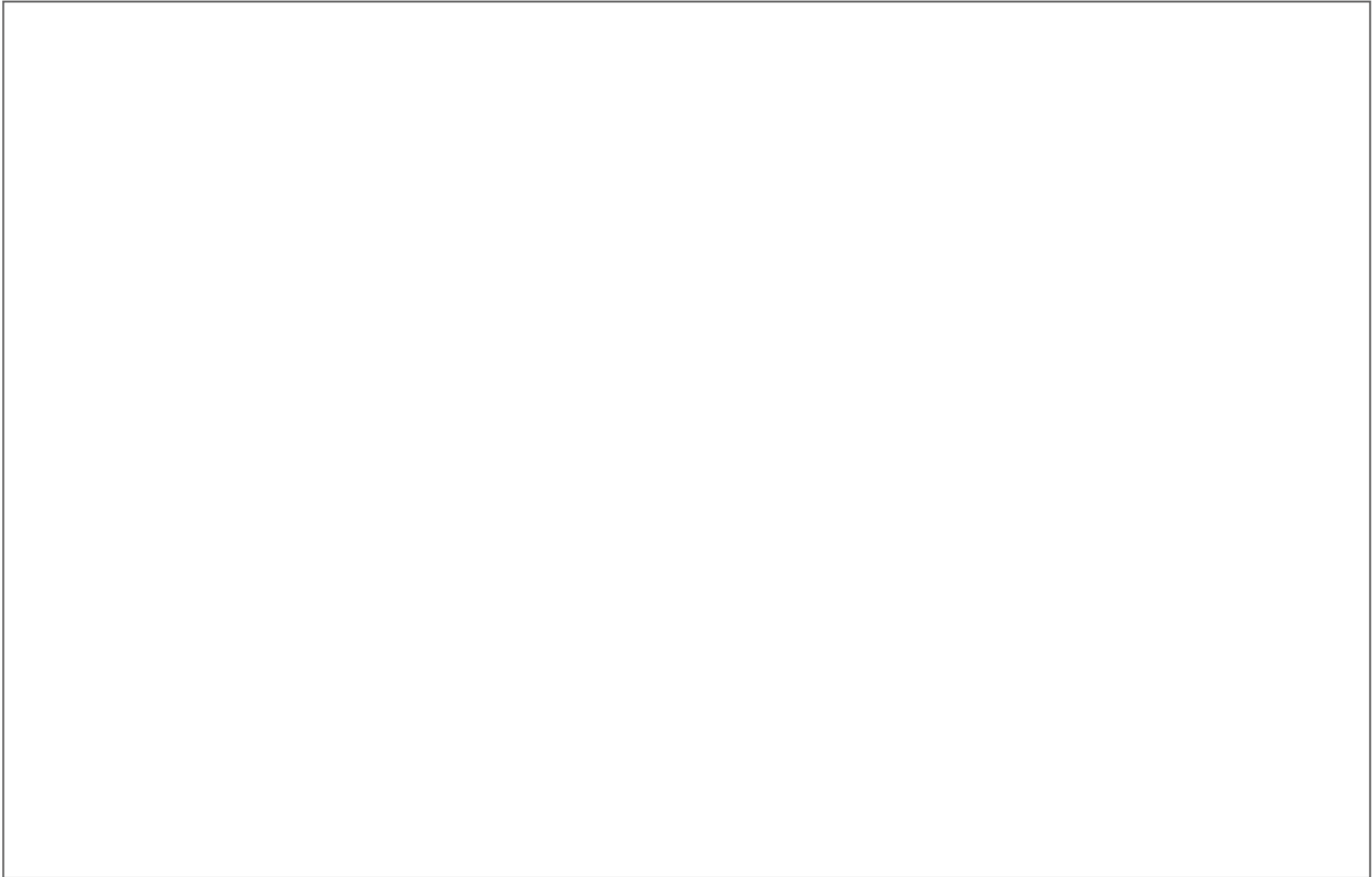
WOODLANDS

JUNGLES

COASTS

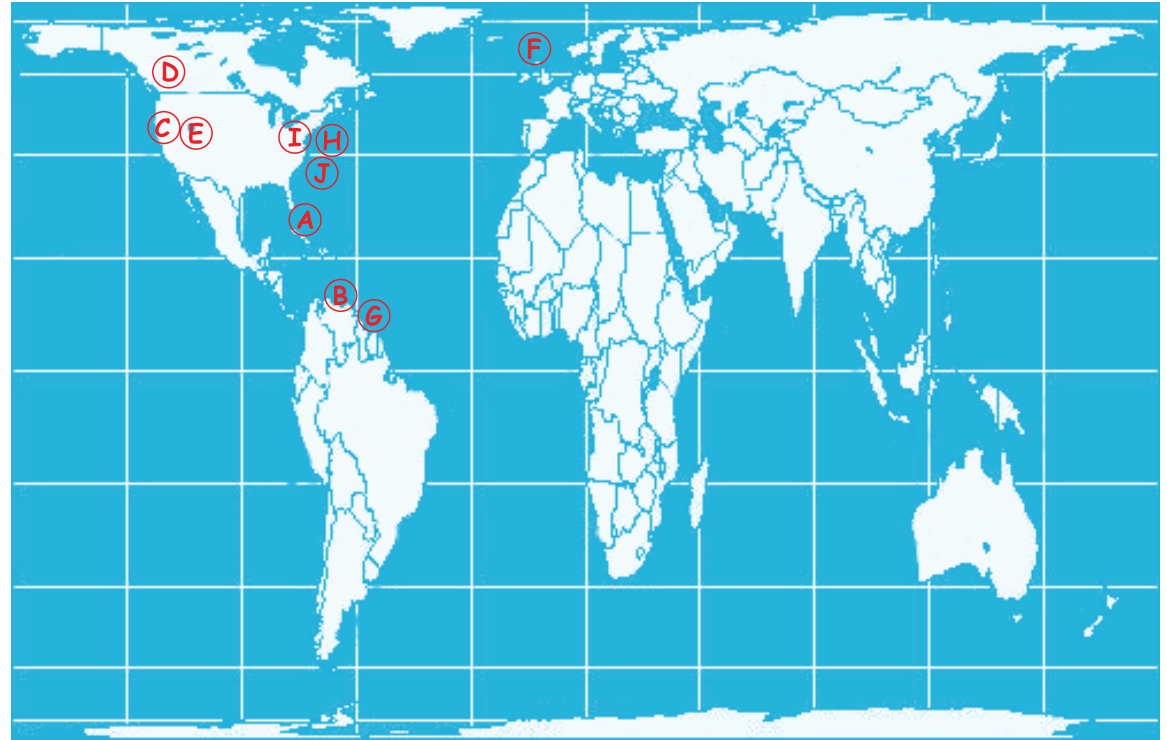
POLAR

Draw a picture of your favorite landscape. It can be from your home, a place you've visited, or even an imagined far away land. Feel free to add images of people, animals, and plants to bring your landscape to life!



The list of places below represents where these Guyanese artists currently live and work, to where they've emigrated, or places where they were later born after their parents left Guyana. Each has a personal story of emigration and migration that many have chosen to express through their art work. Using the map below, locate and write the correct corresponding letter for the following U.S. cities, and states, and international countries:

- _____ Bahamas
- _____ England
- _____ Barbados
- _____ Guyana
- _____ California
- _____ New York City
- _____ Canada
- _____ Newark, New Jersey
- _____ Colorado
- _____ North Carolina



*As a bonus, lightly pencil shade the major continent, Asian country, and sub-continent from where the three major groups of people came to Guyana starting in the 1600s. *Need a hint? Go back and re-read page 2.

Answer Key: A - Bahamas, B - Barbados, C - California, D - Canada, E - Colorado, F - England, G - Guyana, H - New York City, I - New York City, J - New Jersey

THANK YOU FOR VISITING CCCADI

We hope you have enjoyed learning about the art in the Liminal Space exhibition. Please inform other parents, teachers, and friends to visit us at our **Firehouse: 120 East 125th Street, NYC 10035**.

CCCADI's education department provides school-based and gallery arts education programs to public, charter, independent, and homeschooled youth, grades Pre-K- 12. For NYCDOE schools, our contact listing is as follows:
NYCDOE Vendor Code: CAR061000; Contract No. QR891EM

For more information on our education school and family programs, contact us at education@cccadi.org, or 212 307-7420.

CCCADI's education department directly assists the larger mission of the organization, by integrating arts with culture and social activism. We utilize the creative genius of African and African Diaspora communities to prepare the next generation of cultural leaders to establish transformative arts advocacy on behalf of our communities. Our more than 40 years of educational programming has been developed to reflect the historical repository of African, African-American, Afro-Caribbean, Afro-Latino, and other related African Diaspora communities.

This Liminal Space exhibition family guide is made possible with the generous support of the Ford Foundation, The New York State Council on the Arts, and New York City Department of Cultural Affairs.