

A person is sitting on a bed with a patterned blanket, holding a large white letter 'A'. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent green filter. The person is wearing a striped shirt and is looking towards the camera.

SIGNATURE STYLE IN ART AND ALBUM COVERS

Est. Time: 60 minutes

Subjects: Visual Arts


Age Range: Middle & High School

★ *TEACHROCK* ★



How have visual artists with distinct styles worked with musicians without compromising their style?

In this lesson, you will:

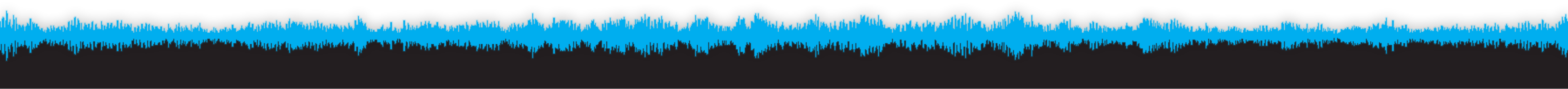
- Learn about artists Keith Haring and Mickalene Thomas
 - How artists establish their distinct styles with their work
 - How Haring and Thomas' work has been used for album covers by musicians such as Malcom McLaren and Solange
- 



Ask a family member, friend, or individual who may know you well:

What is something that reminds them of you or what are you known for?

It could be:

- A feature of yours
 - Something that you love (a color, a franchise, a hobby)
 - Something you say, like a catchphrase
 - A trait of yours, like kindness
 - A habit
- 

In this lesson you will learn about two artists with notable styles, Keith Haring and Mickalene Thomas.



Keith Haring

Hailing from Reading, Pennsylvania, Keith Haring (1958-1990) became one of the most notable artists in the 1980s. He mingled with other artists in New York City, such as pop art icon and mentor Andy Warhol and neo expressionist Jean-Michel Basquiat, and was a good friend of Pop stars like Madonna.



His work focused on themes such as love, community, critiques of media, and social justice issues such as the AIDS epidemic. Haring passed away due to complications from AIDS in 1990. His work resides in major art museums around the world, as public murals, and on clothing and other merchandise.



CRACK



DOWN!




IGNORANCE = FEAR



SILENCE = DEATH ▲ **FIGHT AIDS ACT UP**



List some things you notice about Haring's work:

- What are some similarities between his work?
 - What are some recurring motifs?
 - Where do you see Haring creating his work?
 - How would you describe Haring's work in your own words?
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In 1983, Keith Haring's illustrations were featured on the cover of British performer, manager, and entrepreneur Malcom McLaren's first album, Duck Rock.

The album cover was designed by famed graffiti artist Dondi White and visual artist and director Nick Egan.



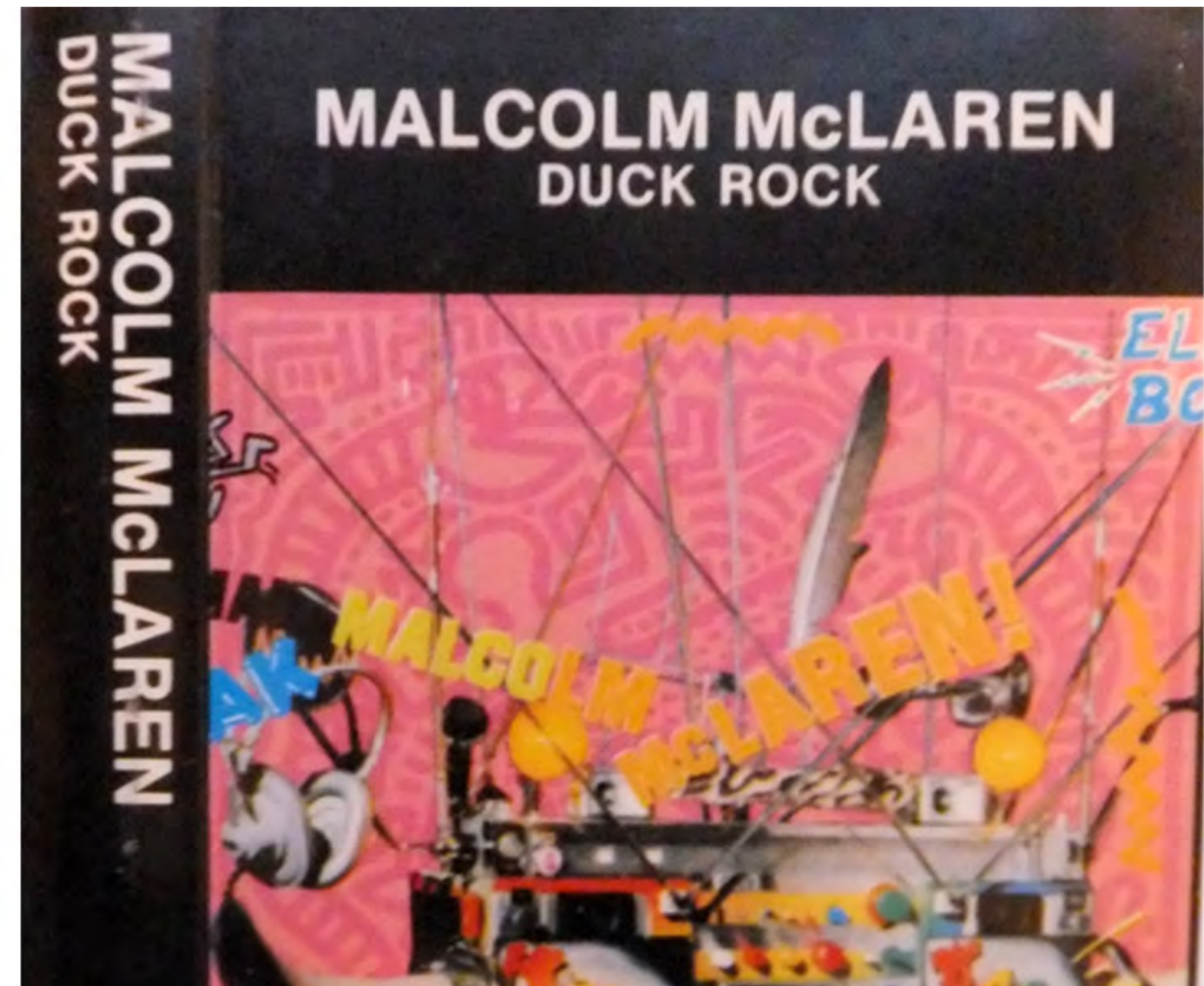
Take some time to look at the album cover.

What are some objects or words that you notice on the album cover?

How do the Haring illustrations on the album cover compare to his work you saw earlier?

What are some words, phrases, or descriptions that come to mind when looking at the album cover?

What do you expect the music on Duck Rock to sound like?



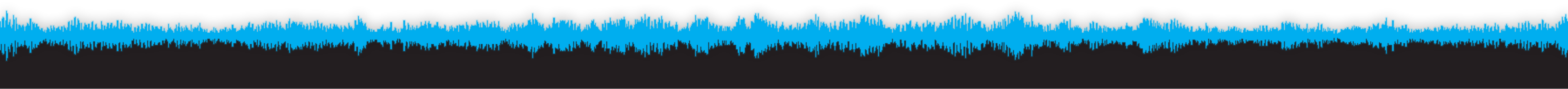


BUFFALO GALS

Watch [this video](#) for Malcolm McLaren’s “Buffalo Gals.” Pay attention to the music, location, and activities taking place in the video.



Consider or ask a friend:

- What are some things you noticed from the video?
 - How would you describe the song? What sounds do you hear? What instruments are used? What does it remind you of?
 - What words would you use to describe the video and song? Any similar words to ones you used to describe Haring's work and style?
 - Do you think Haring's work and style was an appropriate choice for the album cover of Duck Rock? Explain, comparing the styles of the art and music along with any emotions or connections both evoked for you.
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Mickalene Thomas

Mickalene Thomas (1971-) is a visual, multi media artist born in Camden, New Jersey. Her work ranges from paintings, collages, photography and to video art. Thomas' influences include French modernists such as Édouard Manet and Henri Matisse along with Harlem renaissance artists Jacob Lawrence and collagist Romare Bearden.




Photographer Carrie Mae Weems is also another major influence on Thomas' work due to Weems' predominant focus on Black women as the subject, along with exploring themes of sex and gender, which Thomas has adopted in her work.





List some things you notice about Thomas' work. Think about:

- What are some similarities between her work?
 - What are some recurring motifs or details?
 - How would you describe Thomas' work in your own words?
- 

In 2013, singer-songwriter and artist Solange released the limited-edition version of her 2012 EP *True* featuring a commissioned portrait done by Mickalene Thomas.



Take some time to look at the album cover.

What are some objects or patterns that you notice on the album cover?

How does the album cover compare to Thomas' work you saw earlier?

What are some words, phrases, or descriptions that come to mind when looking at the album cover?

What do you expect the music on True to sound like based on the album cover?






LOSING YOU

Watch [this video](#) for Solange's "Losing You" directed by award winning director Melina Matsoukas. Pay attention to the fashion, color grade, setting, and extras in the video.



Consider or ask a friend:

- What are some things you noticed from the video? Do you notice any similarities between the video and album cover or Thomas' work?
 - How would you describe the song? What sounds do you hear? What instruments are used? Does the song remind you of anything?
 - What words would you use to describe the video and song? Any similar words to the ones you used to describe Mickalene Thomas' work and style?
 - Do you think Thomas' work and style was an appropriate choice for the album cover of True? Explain, comparing the styles of the art and music along with any emotions or connections both evoked for you.
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SUMMARY

- Visual artists establish an artistic identity through their work becoming their signature style
- Artists have created or been featured on album covers for musicians and singers
- Art can influence music and vice versa



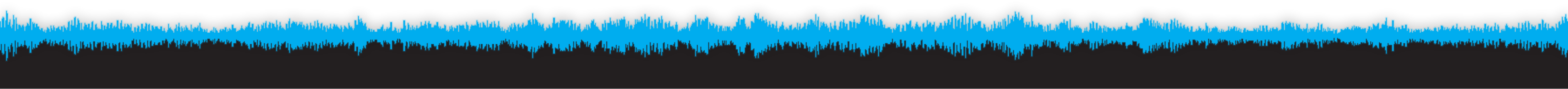
BE CREATIVE

Create a playlist of songs that you feel best represent you. You may choose the songs yourself or ask friends, family members, or other people in your life to suggest songs that remind them of you. After curating your playlist, design an album cover that reflects who you are or what you're known for.



CONNECT

Share it with us! Either you or an adult in your life can share your work with TeachRock on [Instagram](#) or [Facebook](#), email to info@teachrock.org, or Tweet it to [@TeachRock](#)





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