

**New York, New York! The 20<sup>th</sup> Century**  
and  
**Storied City: New York in Picture Book Art**  
October 2 – December 31, 2011

We are thrilled to have your classes visit these fascinating exhibitions celebrating New York City. With over 100 works of art all inspired by the Big Apple, your students will be amazed and intrigued by what they learn about the city itself and the artwork that has been inspired by it.

To help prepare students, we have provided the following materials:

- Introduction to the Exhibition
- Catalogue for *Storied City: New York in Picture Book Art*
- Glossary of Museum, Art, and NYC terms
- Three images from the exhibition for discussion with your students
- Pre-visit activities: *From Words to Art, What style is it?*, and *New York City over Time*
- Name Tag Sheet – Please have each student arrive wearing a name tag with his/her first name clearly written. You can use your own nametags or the enclosed sheet.

On tours of these exhibitions, students will be challenged to consider the significance of the NYC scenes depicted; the artists' choices in the styles, techniques, and materials they have used; what we can learn about the city through its art; and how these representations relate to our own ideas of NYC and the neighborhoods in which we live. Through interactive discussion, gallery activities, and a hands-on creation of their own urban landscape, students will explore NYC in a multitude of ways.

Before your visit to the Museum, begin a discussion with your class about their ideas of NYC:

What do you think of when you think of NYC? Close your eyes and visualize.

What time of day is it? What do you see around you? What types of buildings? Colors?

Is anything moving around you? What sounds? What smells? What feelings?

The artists in our exhibition are capturing the look and feel and details of NYC from specific places and moments in time. How do they represent this place we all know?

The KMA education department welcomes collaborative planning for class visits to ensure the value, relevance, and enjoyment of your students. Let us know how you will be using your visit so that we may best serve you. Please call 914-232-9555, ext. 2985 to discuss the specifics of your tour.

**UPCOMING PROGRAMS TO NOTE ON YOUR CALENDAR:**

- **Educator's Workshop: *The Art of Picture Books*, Monday, December 5, 4:30 – 7:30pm**  
Neil Waldman, writer and illustrator of more than 50 children's books, will lead a hands-on workshop that explores the power of picture-book illustration. Mr. Waldman will talk about the creation of some of his books, discuss how to help students gain a deeper understanding of the art of picture books, and introduce participants to innovative watercolor techniques for classroom use.  
**\$35 member, \$40 non-members, includes \$10 materials fee**
- **Younger Artists: *New York Stories: January 15 – February 19, 2011***  
Teachers who have visited the KMA's fall exhibitions are invited showcase their student's NY-inspired artwork in this 5-week exhibition. Contact Naomi Leiseroff by Dec. 15 if you are interested in participating: 914-232-9555, ext. 2981
- **Young Artists 2012: March 4 – 11, 2012**  
An annual exhibition of art by seniors from KMA member high schools. Call 914-232-9555, ext. 2985 for information



# NEW YORK, NEW YORK! THE 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY

At the Katonah Museum of Art

## In the Main Galleries

Founded by the Dutch as New Amsterdam in 1624, New York City was renamed by the English in honor of the Duke of York. Originally consisting only of Manhattan Island, it was re-chartered in 1898 to include the five present-day boroughs of Manhattan, the Bronx, Brooklyn, Queens and Staten Island. *New York, New York! The 20th Century* invites Museum visitors to explore and celebrate the incomparable life, architecture, and landscape of New York City as it was seen during the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The exhibition features over 50 paintings, photographs, sculptures and works on paper drawn entirely from the collection of the Norton Museum of West Palm Beach, Florida. The artistic interpretations and documentations of this remarkable city range in style and date from Childe Hassam's American Impressionism to Edward Hopper's American Scene Painting and Edward Steichen's Tonalist Photographs to the large-scale Contemporary photographs of Jeff Chien-Hsing Liao.

The imagery in *New York, New York* is centered on some of the most notable and beloved features of the city which can be seen in each of the five themes:

**On the Waterfront** pairs docks and the shipping industry.

**Streets and Avenues** transports the viewer to the sidewalks of New York, from Wall Street to Fifth Ave.

**Parks and Recreation** presents viewers with scenes of New York's parks, both large and small.

**On the Town** features some of the seemingly endless possibilities for entertainment in the city.

**Tall Buildings** highlights the very core of New York, the steel and stone of its buildings.

## ***STORIED CITY: New York in Picture Book Art***

### **In the Learning Center and the Project Gallery**

As America's real-life Emerald City of dreams and as the epicenter of American publishing, New York City has long held special appeal for the illustrators and writers of children's books—both as a place to live and as a setting for their stories and art. Today, an impressive library of books for young people, from toddlers to teens, celebrates the city in all its variety: as an urban center of superlatives—a grand assemblage of biggest, latests, and bests; as a world crossroads for immigrants seeking a better life; as a cauldron of commerce and culture; and as an intricate web of surprisingly livable neighborhoods.

*Storied City* samples original art from more than thirty-five picture books from this burgeoning children's literature sub-genre. Among the illustrators represented are seven Caldecott Medal winners, artists long associated with *The New Yorker* magazine, and other leading illustrators from the children's book world. The art is grouped thematically under the headings "**Big City**" (iconic landmarks and other monumental structures), "**Rainbow City**" (neighborhoods and ethnic life), "**Fast City**" (modes of urban transportation), and "**Green City**" (parks and other city nature). Illustration media include watercolor, gouache, collage, digital art, photography, oil paint, black ink, and scratchboard. Curator Leonard S. Marcus is one of America's foremost authorities on children's books and their illustrations, and is the author of *Storied City: A Children's-Book Walking Tour Guide to New York*.

**Enjoy your tour of New York City!**

## Glossary of words for Museums, Art, and the New York exhibition

### MUSEUM TERMS:

- *Exhibition*: a public display of works of art or other items, held in an art gallery or museum
- *Collection*: something collected, especially an accumulation of objects gathered for study, comparison, or exhibition
- *Gallery*: a room or building for the display of works of art
- *Curator*: a person who manages, administers or organizes a collection
- *Artist*: a person who produces paintings, drawings or other forms of art as a profession or hobby
- *Sculptor*: an artist who makes sculptures –three-dimensional forms – by carving, casting or other shaping techniques
- *Photographer*: a person who takes photographs
- *Wall text*: information about the artist and/or the work of art that accompanies the piece nearby for enhanced understanding
- *Docent*: someone who gives tours of a gallery or exhibition
- *Artifact*: an object made by a human being, typically an item of cultural or historical interest

### ART TERMS:

- *Foreground*: the part of a view that is nearest to the observer
- *Background*: the area behind the main figures or objects that appear furthest from the viewer
- *Landscape*: all the visible features of an area of countryside or land
- *Cityscape*: the visual appearance of a city or urban area; a city landscape
- *Horizon*: the line at which the earth's surface and the sky appear to meet
- *Medium*: the material that the artist uses
- *Panoramic*: an unbroken view of the whole region surrounding an observer
- *Point of view*: the position from which something or someone is observed

- *Perspective*: a picture drawn in such a way, especially one appearing to enlarge or extend the actual space, or to give the effect of distance; a particular attitude toward or way of regarding something; a point of view
- *Bird's-eye view/ Aerial view*: a general view from above or as if from above
- *Scale*: a consideration of the size of one object relative to another object
- *Composition*: the artistic arrangement of the parts of a picture
- *Style*: A distinctive appearance that is characteristic of a particular period, place, person, or movement.
- *Mood*: the atmosphere or pervading tone of something, esp. a work of art
- *Documentary*: capturing the details of real life
- *Abstract*: Simplified into lines, colors and shapes
- *Representational*: Depicting the physical appearance of things; looking real
- *Impressionistic*: Capturing the fleeting impressions or feelings of a scene using patches of light and color

### NEW YORK, NEW YORK EXHIBITION

- *Landmark*: an object or feature of a landscape or town that is easily seen and recognized from a distance; an object of cultural or local significance
- *Skyline*: an outline of land and buildings defined against the sky
- *Icon*: a person or thing regarded as a representative symbol of something
- *Urban*: relating to the city and city life

### NEW YORK CITY NICKNAMES

- The Big Apple
- The Capital of the World
- The Empire City
- The City That Never Sleeps
- Gotham
- The City So Nice, They Named It Twice



**Stuart Davis**  
*New York Mural*, 1932  
Oil on canvas, 84 x 48 in.

## How do artists represent NYC?

### Look carefully at this image. What do you see?

Describe the colors.

What kinds of shapes do you see?

What is in front and what is towards the back?

What is large vs. small?

What feeling do you get? Calm, excited, busy, happy?

What does this tell you about NYC?

### Background for teachers:

Through, color, style and composition, Stuart Davis has represented NYC as a busy energized place. But, he also used symbolic imagery to tell us details about NYC at the time it was painted. The Picasso-like tiger's head at the bottom right symbolizes Tammany Hall, which was involved in a political scandal early in 1932; the tiger's tail shaped like a shepherd's crook is perhaps a jab at "crooked" politics. The derby hat (there are two of them) was the symbol of Al Smith's 1928 Presidential campaign; Smith was a key figure in the Prohibition controversy. Looming over everything is the newly constructed Empire State Building, which opened to great acclaim in May 1931. The white sail behind the Empire State Building references New York City's status as a major port; the banana refers again to Al Smith and his campaign theme song "Yes, We Have No Bananas," and the rope on the sail leads to a martini glass (Prohibition) spilling its contents near a half moon.



## Documenting neighborhoods

**Look carefully at this image. What do you see?**

Describe the location. What details do you see?

What are the people doing?

How is this the same or different from how you might go about the same activity?

When do you think this might have taken place? What clues do you see?

### Background for teachers:

Bill Witt (b. 1921) was a child of the Great Depression. The documentary photographers of the Farm Security Administration were a source of inspiration for him. He joined the Photo-League (a school, an association, and a social club) which offered classes in photography when there were no such courses in schools. Bill Witt and the other League artists directed their attention towards documenting the working class.

Witt's *The Greeting at \$2.00 Shoes* is an example of the social photography that the League espoused. There is no staged beauty on this street in the Lower East Side, where a vendor is offering shoes for only \$2. Even in 1947 this was a bargain, as the average men's and women's shoes sold for \$6.95.

The street is littered. Rows of shoes are displayed in the window of Wm. Rosen's Shoes & Rubbers (sic), as well as in open boxes on the steps. Seated on a chair, the woman who is trying on a pair of shoes looks directly at the camera, as does the young boy in the striped shirt on the right.

A large man off to the left raises his arms to greet the woman on the steps and the man behind her. Is he a returning customer? A friend? A relative? The camera records, but it doesn't give all the details.



**David Wiesner**  
Detail of Boy on cloud above Empire State Building  
from *Sector 7*, 1999  
Watercolor

## A New York City Story

**Look carefully at this image. What do you see?**

Describe what this character might be experiencing? What does he see, feel, hear?

What is special about where this is taking place?

What might happen next?

If you could be a character flying in NYC what might happen to you?

### Background for teachers:

David Weisner has won three Caldecott Medals and two Caldecott Honors (one for *Sector 7*). His extraordinary art is only surpassed by his extraordinary imagination. He grew up in suburban New Jersey and graduated from RISD. His magical, mysterious and often whimsical wordless stories are doubly creative in that they allow the “reader” to exercise their imagination along with the Weisner’s far-out imagination. Often he builds three-dimensional objects to get them right and spends several years creating each new book. He is one of the most highly acclaimed picture book artists of this generation. He lives with his family outside of Philadelphia.

*Sector 7* begins with a class trip to the Empire State Building. On the top, in the fog, the young boy meets a mischievous cloud who transports him to the sector 7 assignment center for clouds. He draws fantastical figures of sea urchins and fish to the dismay of the bureaucrats in charge of cloud production and the delight of his friend, the red-capped little cloud. Our double-paged image shows the cloud police throwing him back into the sky as he is lifted above the Empire State Building to rejoin his classmates.

**In class:** Ask your students to tell a wordless story. They could draw it out or act it out. How else can you tell a story?

## FROM WORDS TO ART

- Read the poem below that describes a New York City scene.
- Draw a picture of what you imagine the scene looks like.
- When you come to the Museum, see if you can find the scene that is described here.

### ***New York Streetscape***

This fat mass of people and lights  
striding, advancing

This river of coats and shirts streaming  
into, toward, against and through

the sidewalks and avenues  
This swarm of schemes

humming at lunchtime

This corridor of men and women

in tempo with awnings

This continuous thrum

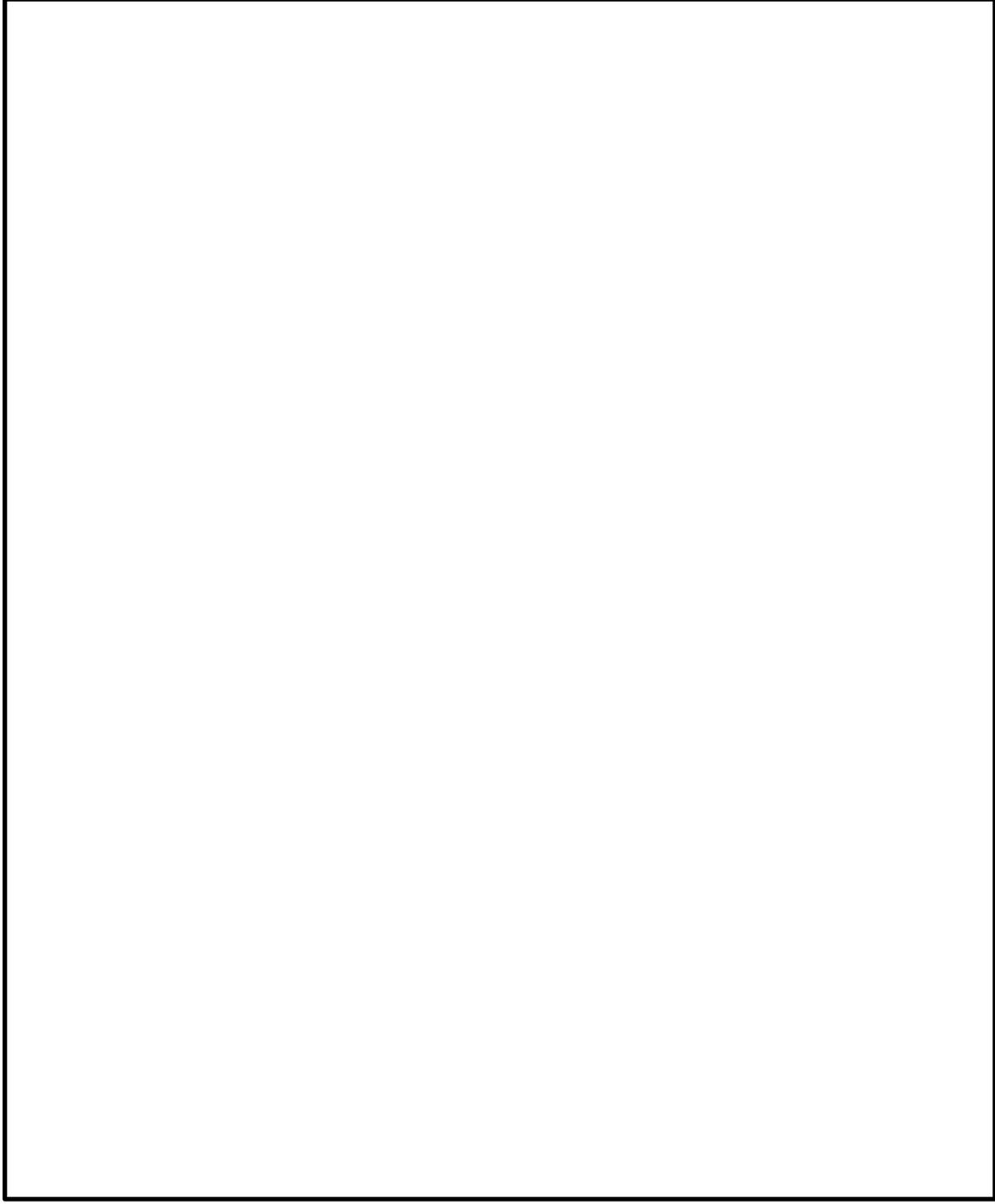
like the lowest, deepest chord  
you'll ever hear

This buzz of syllables  
around the circumference of traffic

all this clamor and jostle  
of car horn and crowd spoon

This swooning narrow  
rush into rapture

By Pamela Hart



## WHAT STYLE IS IT?

The artists in the *New York, New York!* have used a variety of styles to capture New York City. Each style conveys a unique feeling and energy.

**See if you can tell one style from another.**

**Representational:** Depicting the physical appearance of things; looking real

**Impressionistic:** Capturing the fleeting impressions or feelings of a scene using patches of color and light

**Abstract:** Simplified into lines, colors, and shapes



John Marin



Weegee



Devoll

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Describe how you decided:

On the back of this page, pick one style and use it to make a picture of a moment in your neighborhood.

## NEW YORK CITY OVER TIME

The artists in our exhibition have portrayed the changes in New York over more than 100 years. Examine the images below.

What changes do you see? What is different? What is similar?



Childe Hassam, *Melting Snow*, 1905



Andreas Feininger, *Fifth Avenue During Lunch Hour*, 1949



Jeff Chien-Hsing Liao, *42<sup>nd</sup> Street Times Square, Manhattan*, 2005

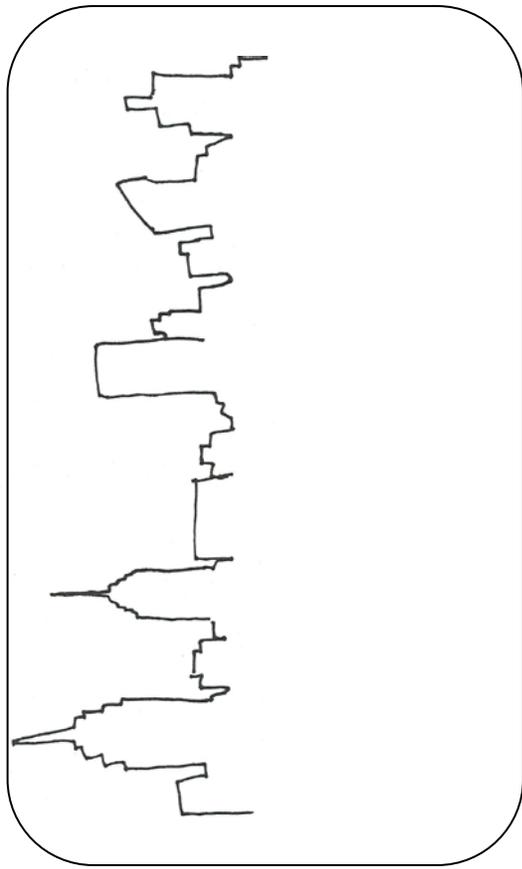
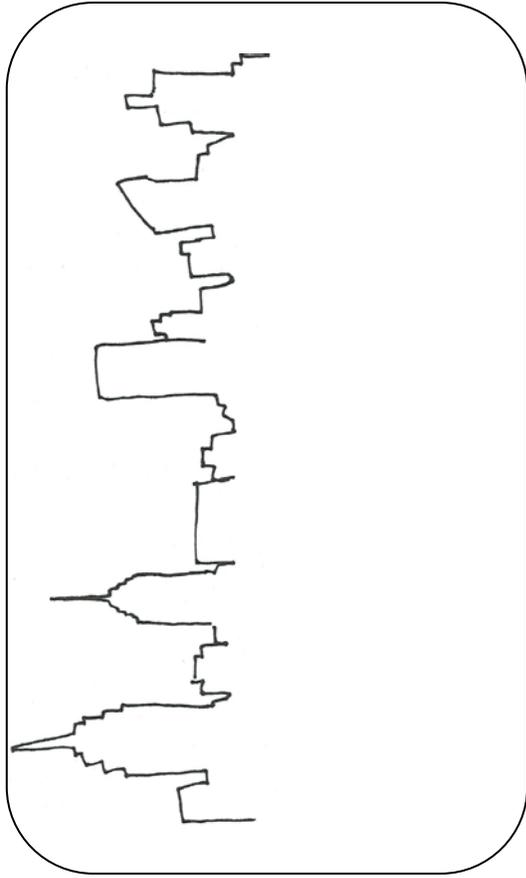
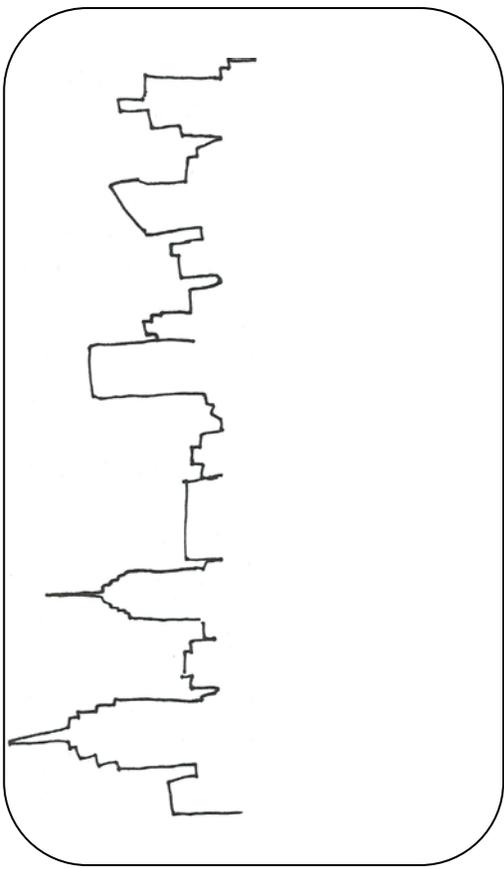
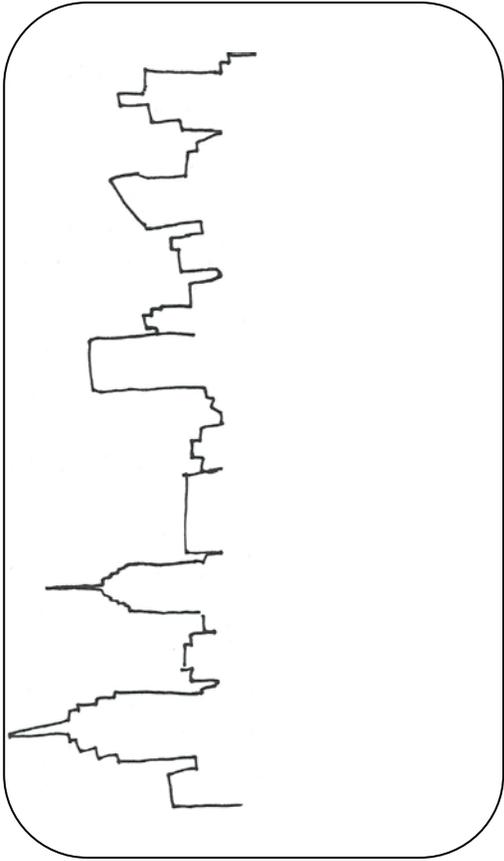
**Imagine:** What might New York look like in 2049? What might be the same or different?



## **Nametag Activity Sheet**

### **New York, New York! The 20th Century**

On your visit to the Katona Museum of Art you will see over 100 works of art all about New York City. Use the outline below to create a nametag to wear on your visit. Please make sure your name is clearly written.





## THIINKING ABOUT NEW YORK

Artists have had many different ideas about what New York City is all about. Read the following quotes carefully. Pick one quote and write a paragraph about what you think the artist is trying to say.

- “New York is the biggest collection of villages in the world”. **Alistair Cooke, author**
- “I think that even today, New York has more of this unexpected quality around every corner than any place else. It’s something quite extraordinary”. **Robert Rauschenberg, painter**
- “New York is the only real city-city”. **Truman Capote, author**
- “At night ... the streets become rhythmical perspectives of glowing dotted lines, reflections hang upon them in the streets as the wisteria hangs its violet racemes on its trellis. The buildings are shimmering verticality, a gossamer veil, a festive scene-prop hanging there against the black sky to dazzle, entertain, amaze”. **Frank Lloyd Wright, architect**
- “New York is like a disco, but without the music”. **Elaine Stritch, actor**
- “Melting pot Harlem – Harlem of honey and chocolate and caramel and rum and vinegar and lemon and lime and gall. Dusky dream Harlem rumbling into a nightmare tunnel where the subway from the Bronx keeps right on downtown”. **Langston Hughes, poet**
- “Every true New Yorker believes with all his heart that when a New Yorker is tired of New York, he is tired of life”. **Robert Moses, architect**
- “One belongs to New York, instantly; one belongs to it as much in five minutes as in five years”. **Thomas Wolfe, author**
- “As for New York City, it is a place apart. There is not its match in any other country in the world”. **Pearl S. Buck, author**
- “New York is a galaxy of adventure at once elegant, exciting, and bizarre. It’s a city that moves so fast, it takes energy just to stand still”. **Barbara Walters, broadcast journalist**

## SYMBOLS IN ART



Stuart Davis represented New York City with a number of interesting symbols. Create some symbols that represent where you live :

Now, put your symbols together in a unique composition below:

