

Educator Notes

Walter Price: We passed like ships in the night

May 28–October 6, 2019



Walter Price, *I have no idea*, 2018. Acrylic on wood,
16 x 20 in (40.64 x 50.8 cm). Courtesy the artist and Karma, New York

About the Artist

Walter Price was born in Macon, GA, in 1989 and lives and works in New York. He received his BA from the Art Institute of Washington in Arlington, VA. His recent solo exhibitions have taken place at MoMA PS1, New York, Kölnischer Kunstverein, Cologne (both 2018); and LUMA Foundation, Zürich (2017).

About the Exhibition

For the AAM exhibition, Walter Price presents a selection of seven paintings created during his time as an artist-in-residence at the Robert Rauschenberg Foundation on Captiva Island, Florida. Captiva Island was the home of Robert Rauschenberg for over thirty-five years.

The artist's expressive techniques, such as applying layers of color, wavering the horizon line, and floating familiar objects over the earth and sky, power this new series of imagined landscapes that connect to the concrete space of the physical world. Each painting examines a specific place, as well as serves as a poetic reminder of how we use symbols and memory to construct our collective cultural landscape.

Questions for Discussion

- I How does the artist use color?
- I Walter Price has said that he wants his paintings to invite a close look and hold the viewer's attention longer. What techniques and strategies are being used to achieve this?
- I Imagine that you have traveled to a familiar place. What do you see, hear, smell, or touch? Share your visualization with a friend.

Suggested Activity

Symbolic Abstraction

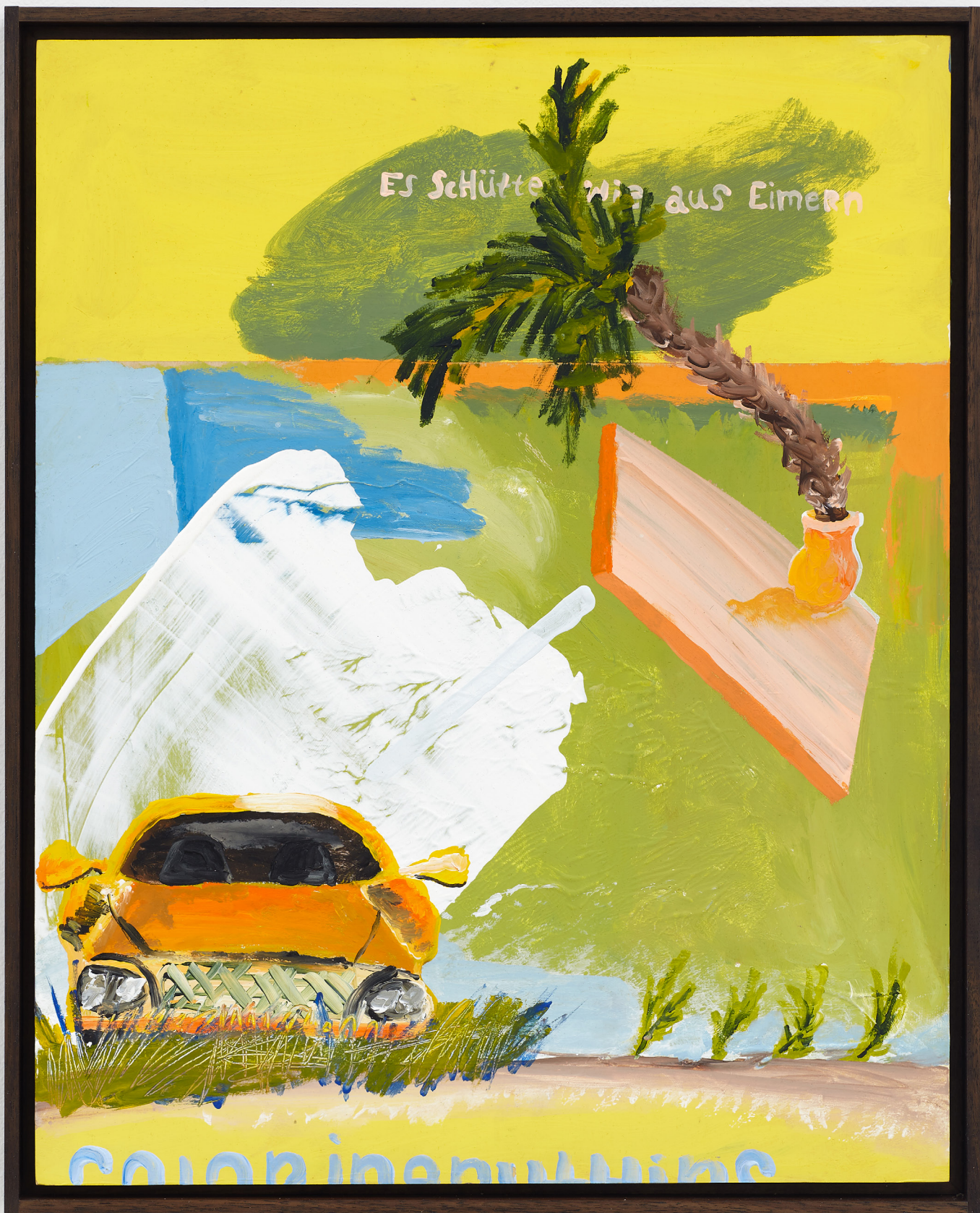
Prepare for the activity by gathering two pieces of watercolor paper per student, watercolor and acrylic paint, oil pastels, paintbrushes, water cups, permanent markers, scissors, and glue.

Invite the students to look at Walter Price's painting *Raining cats and dogs*, and encourage them to imagine themselves in their favorite places. Ask students what place might be represented through the symbolism in Price's work. Finally, have students think about and share symbols that could represent their favorite places.

Inform students that they will be creating a symbolic, abstract landscape in the style of Price. Begin the project by giving each student one piece of watercolor paper to use as the abstract landscape background. Encourage students to focus on filling the page with color as opposed to creating a traditional landscape painting.

Upon filling the page with color, have them set aside the paper to dry. While the background is drying, give students a new piece of watercolor paper. Students will use this piece to draw five symbols that represent their favorite places, then fill them in with watercolor paints. Once they are dry, students will cut out the symbols and glue them onto their abstract background. Invite students to push their abstractions further by applying texture with acrylic paints or oil pastels.

After finishing their artwork, have students pair up and share their paintings with one another. Encourage students to guess what location the symbols might represent in their partners' art.



Walter Price, *Raining cats and dogs*, 2018. Acrylic on wood, 16 x 20 in (40.64 x 50.8 cm). Courtesy the artist and Karma, New York