

# **Someday Is Now The Art of Corita Kent**

List of works

Museum of Contemporary Art Cleveland

# Someday Is Now The Art of Corita Kent

June 27—August 31, 2014

Organized at The Frances Young Tang Teaching Museum and Art Gallery, curated by Ian Berry and Michael Duncan, in collaboration with the Corita Art Center, Los Angeles.

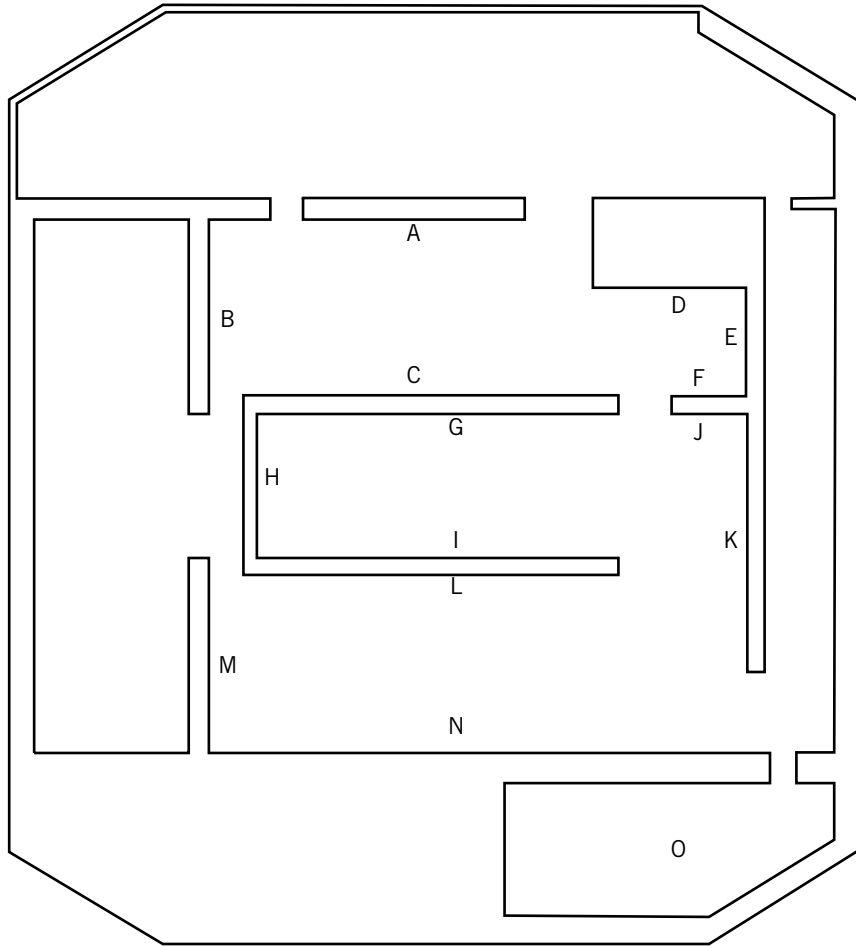
Corita Kent (1918-1986) was a pioneering, Los Angeles-based artist and designer. For over three decades, Corita, as she is commonly referred to, experimented in printmaking, producing a prodigious and groundbreaking body of work that combines faith, activism, and teaching with messages of acceptance and hope. Her vibrant, Pop-inspired prints from the 1960s pose philosophical questions about racism, war, poverty, and religion and remain iconic symbols of that period in American history. Bringing together artwork from across Corita's entire career, *Someday is Now* reveals the impassioned energy of this artist, educator, and activist.

A Sister of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Corita taught at the Art Department at Immaculate Heart College from 1947 through 1968. At IHC, Corita developed her own version of Pop art, mixing bright, bold imagery with provocative texts pulled from a range of secular and religious sources, including street signs, scripture, poetry, philosophy, advertising, and pop song lyrics. She used printmaking as a populist medium to communicate with the world, and her avant-garde designs appeared widely as billboards, book jackets, illustrations, and posters. By the mid-1960s Corita and IHC's art department had become legendary, frequently bringing such luminaries as John Cage, Charles and Ray Eames, Buckminster Fuller, Saul Bass, and Alfred Hitchcock. Dubbed the "joyous revolutionary" by artist Ben Shahn, Corita lectured extensively, appeared on television and radio talk shows across the country, and was featured on the cover of *Newsweek* in 1967.

As a teacher, Corita inspired her students to discover new ways of experiencing the world. She asked them to see with fresh eyes through the use of a "finder," an empty 35mm slide mount that students looked through to frame arresting compositions and images. Seeking out revelation in the everyday, students explored grocery stores, car dealerships, and the streets of Hollywood. As Corita's friend, theologian Harvey Cox, noted, "Like a priest, a shaman, a magician, she could pass her hands over the commonest of the everyday, the superficial, the oh-so-ordinary, and make it a vehicle of the luminous, the only, and the hope filled."

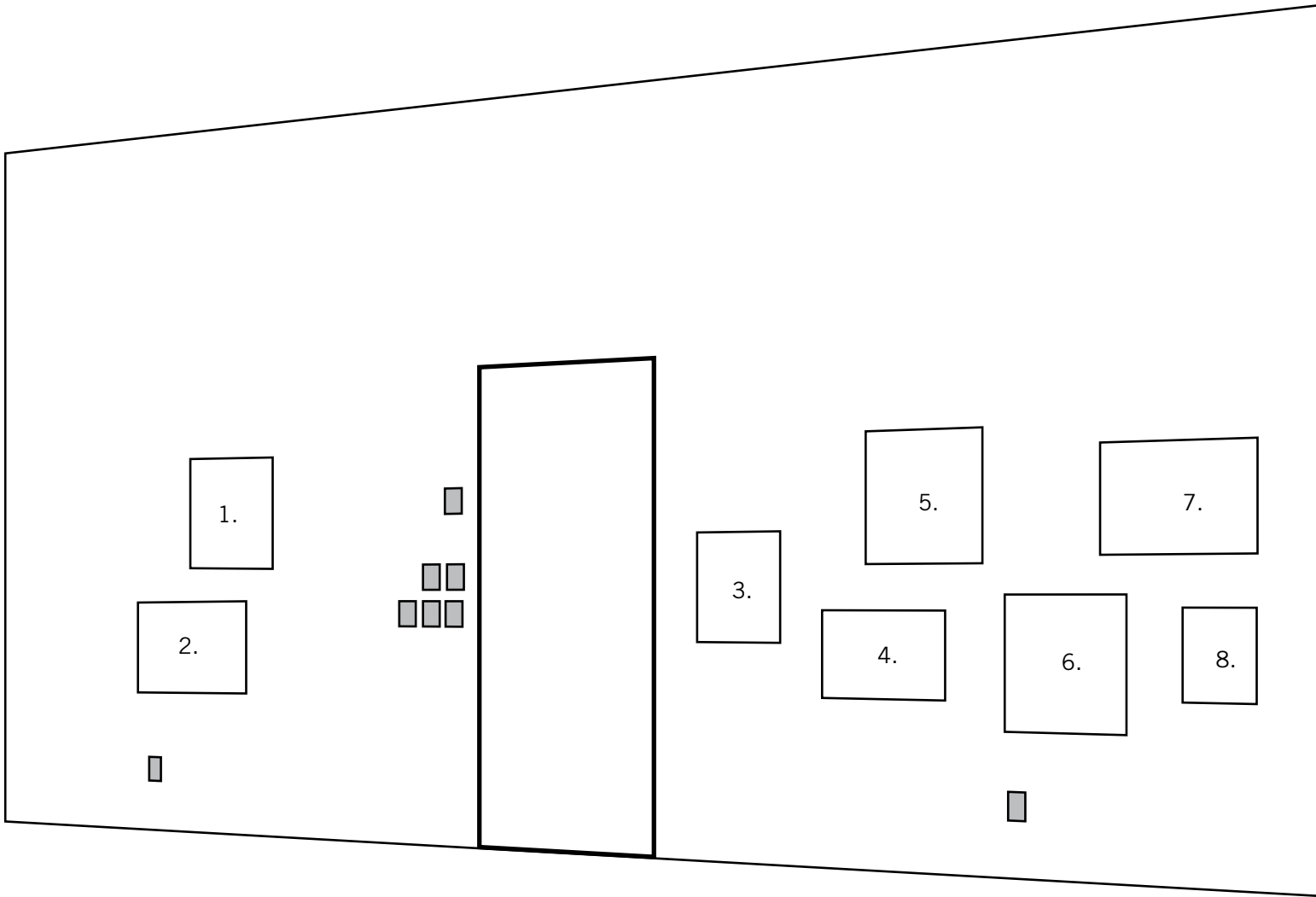
A special addition to the exhibition at MOCA Cleveland will be Corita's *Beatitudes Banner*, which was commissioned for the Vatican Pavilion at the 1964 World's Fair in New York. After the Fair, the banner was acquired by the United Church of Christ, whose National Headquarters were relocated to Cleveland from New York in 1990. Forty feet long and bursting with colorful lettering, the banner features beatitudes, biblical teachings from Jesus's Sermon on the Mount, along with quotes from Pope John XXIII and John F. Kennedy. This is the banner's first display to a broad public audience in over 40 years.

*Someday is Now* was made possible with the generous support of the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts and the Friends of the Tang.



All works by Corita Kent  
Serigraph on paper or pellon  
unless otherwise noted  
Courtesy of Corita Art Center,  
Los Angeles, CA.

# A



1. *benedictio*, 1954

2. *all the nations shall come*, 1955

3. *figures of the morning time*, 1955

4. *christ and mary*, 1954

5. *the lord is with thee*, 1952

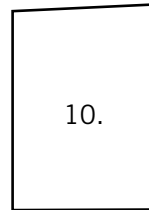
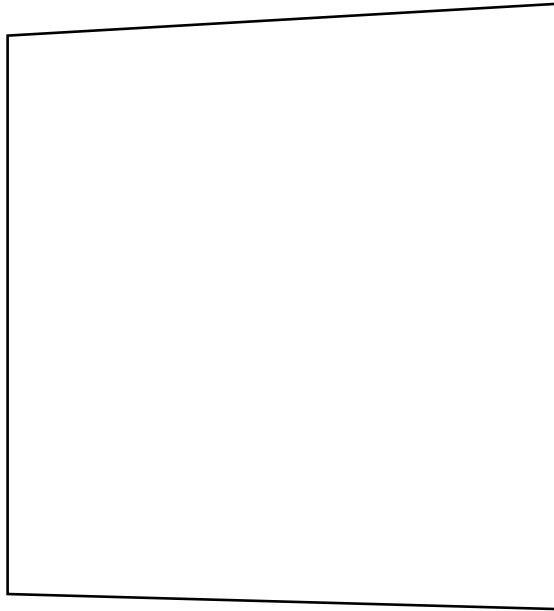
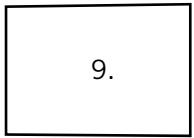
Collection of Siri Gopal Singh

6. *at cana of galilee*, 1952

7. *word picture: gift of tongues*, 1955

8. *admirable exchange*, 1951

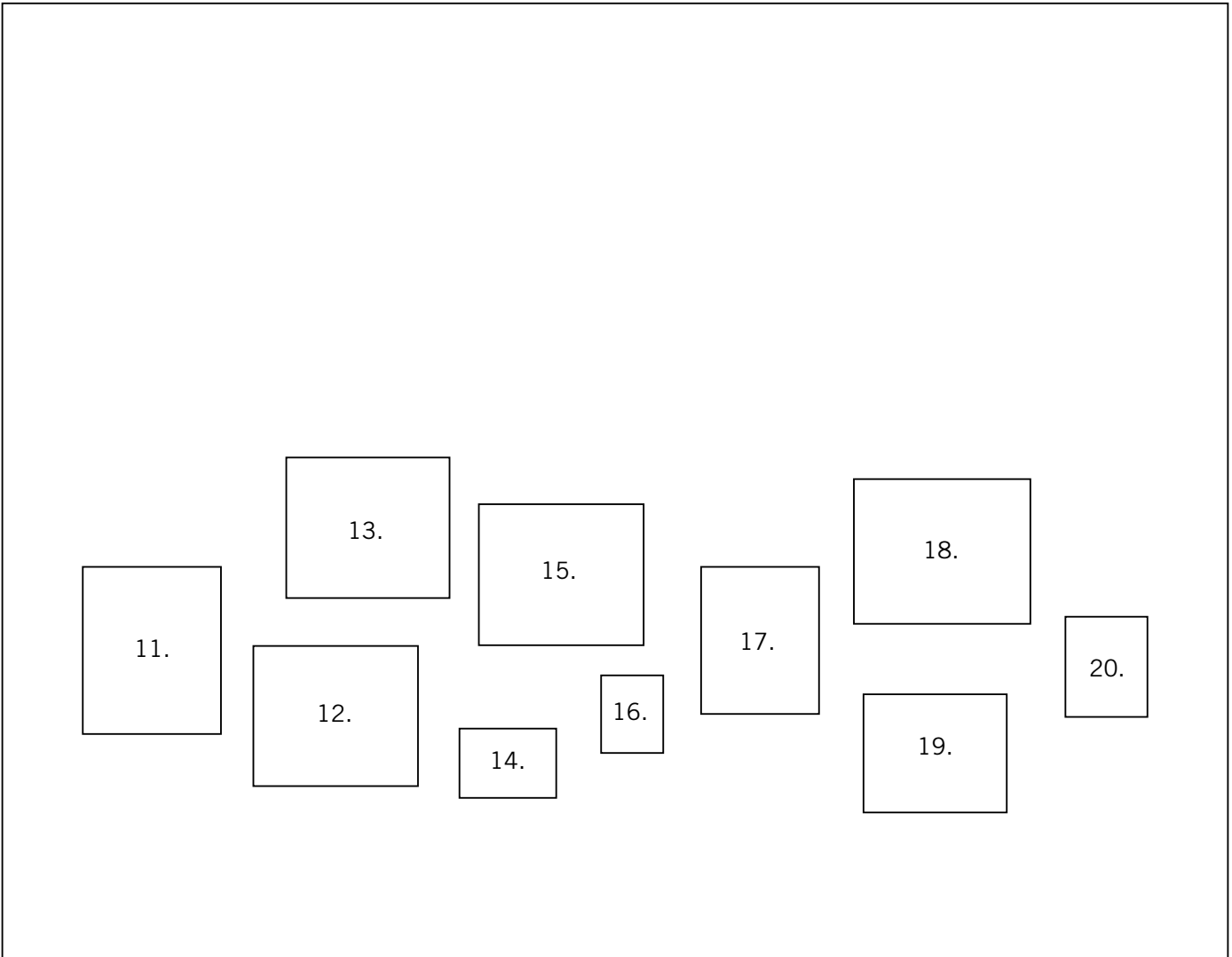
# A



9. *christ suffering over jerusalem*, 1951

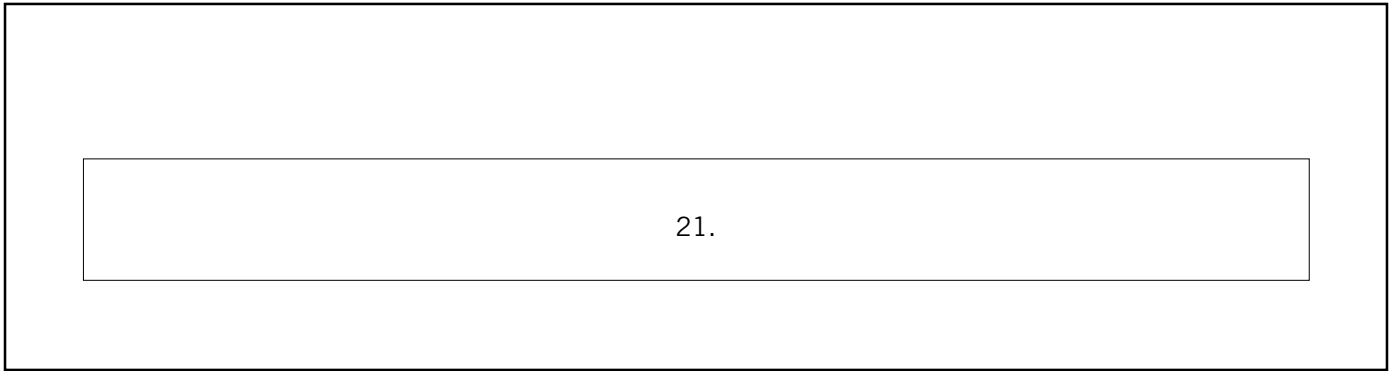
10. *lady of light*, 1957 (2 parts)

# B



- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 11. <i>yobel</i> , 1963                             | 16. <i>mary's heart</i> , 1960               |
| 12. <i>to all of my calling your name</i> , 1962    | 17. <i>then feathers all</i> , 1958          |
| 13. <i>butterfly</i> , 1962                         | 18. <i>liquid fire</i> , 1961                |
| 14. <i>a child said what is the grass #1</i> , 1963 | 19. <i>towers</i> , 1959                     |
| 15. <i>hi</i> , 1963                                | 20. <i>pigeons on the grass, alas</i> , 1961 |

C



21. *beatitudes banner*, 1963-64

# D

22.

23.

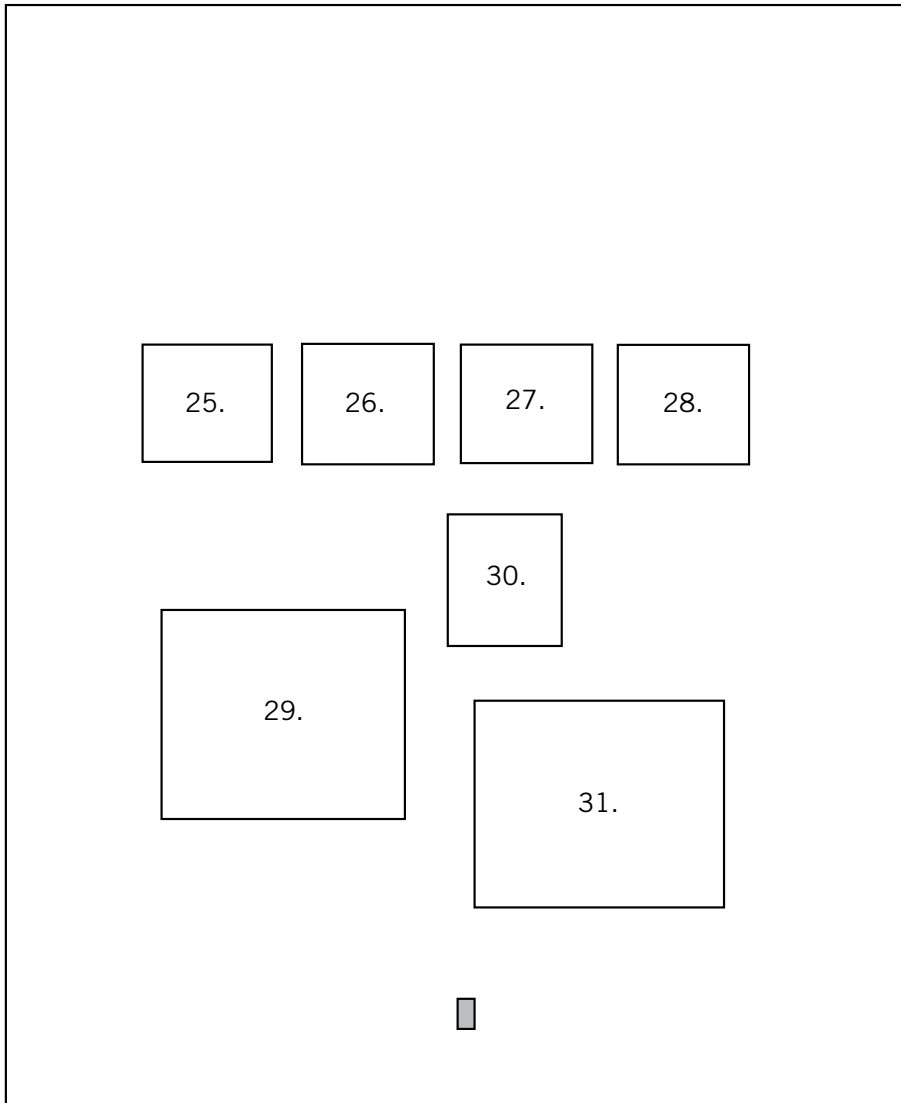
24.



- 22. *wonderbread*, 1962  
Collection of Siri Gopal Singh
- 23. *that they may have life*, 1964  
Collection of Siri Gopal Singh
- 24. *enriched bread*, 1965



# E



25. *be*, 1967

26. *of love*, 1967

27. *(a little) more careful*. 1967

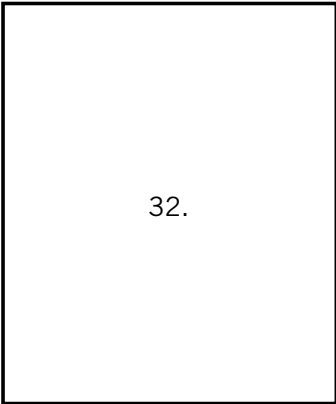
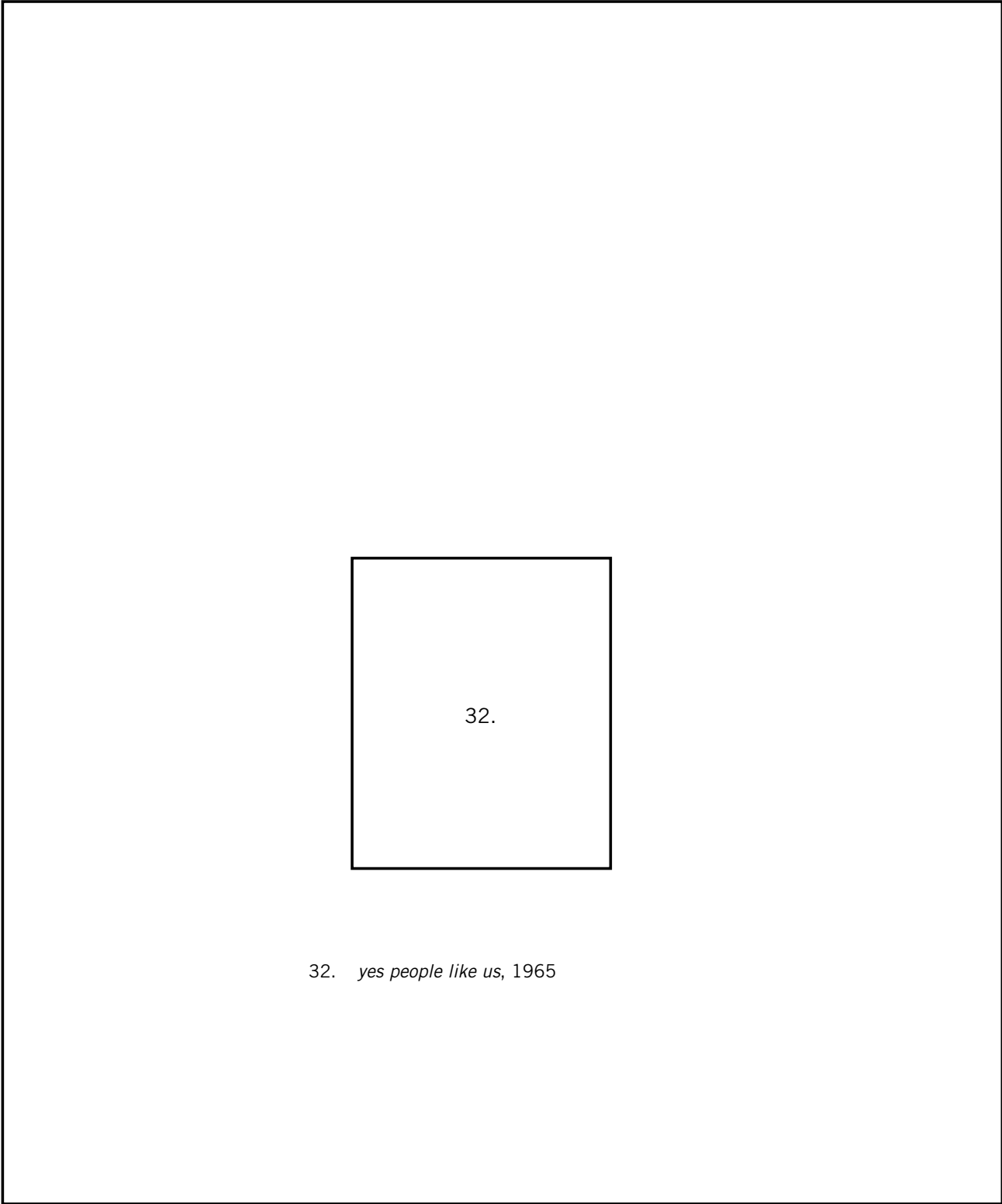
28. *than of everything*, 1967  
Collection of Juliette Bellocq

29. *bread and toast*, 1965

30. *life*, 1965

31. *wide open*, 1964  
Private Collection

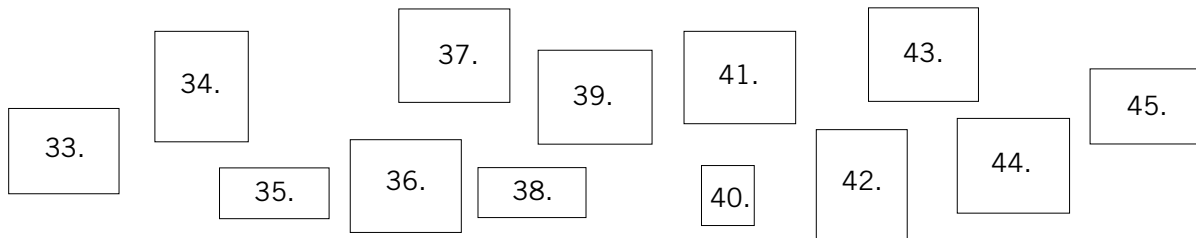
F



32.

32. *yes people like us, 1965*

# G



- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 33. <i>questions and answers</i> , 1966<br>Collection of Siri Gopal Singh | 41. <i>ha</i> , 1966                                       |
| 34. <i>who came out of the water</i> , 1966                               | 42. <i>magpie in the sky #2</i> , 1965                     |
| 35. <i>i wanna hold your hand</i> , 1965                                  | 43. <i>shalom</i> , 1966<br>Collection of Siri Gopal Singh |
| 36. <i>come off it</i> , 1966   | 44. <i>viva</i> , 1967<br>Collection of Siri Gopal Singh   |
| 37. <i>tomorrow the stars</i> , 1966                                      | 45. <i>someday is now</i> , 1964<br>Private Collection     |
| 38. <i>bread of self being</i> , 1965                                     |  |
| 39. <i>for emergency use soft shoulder</i> ,<br>1966                      |  |
| 40. <i>look</i> , 1965<br>Collection of Siri Gopal Singh                  |  |

# H

46.

47.

48.

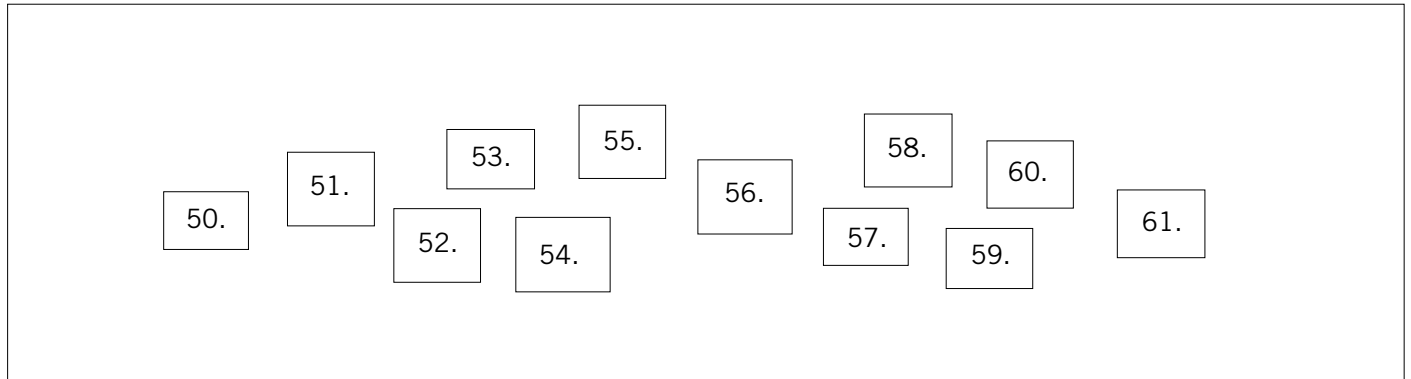
49.

46. *power up (A)*, 1965  
Collection of Siri Gopal Singh

47. *power up (B)*, 1965  
Collection of Siri Gopal Singh

48. *power up (C)*, 1965  
Collection of Siri Gopal Singh

49. *power up (D)*, 1965  
Collection of Siri Gopal Singh



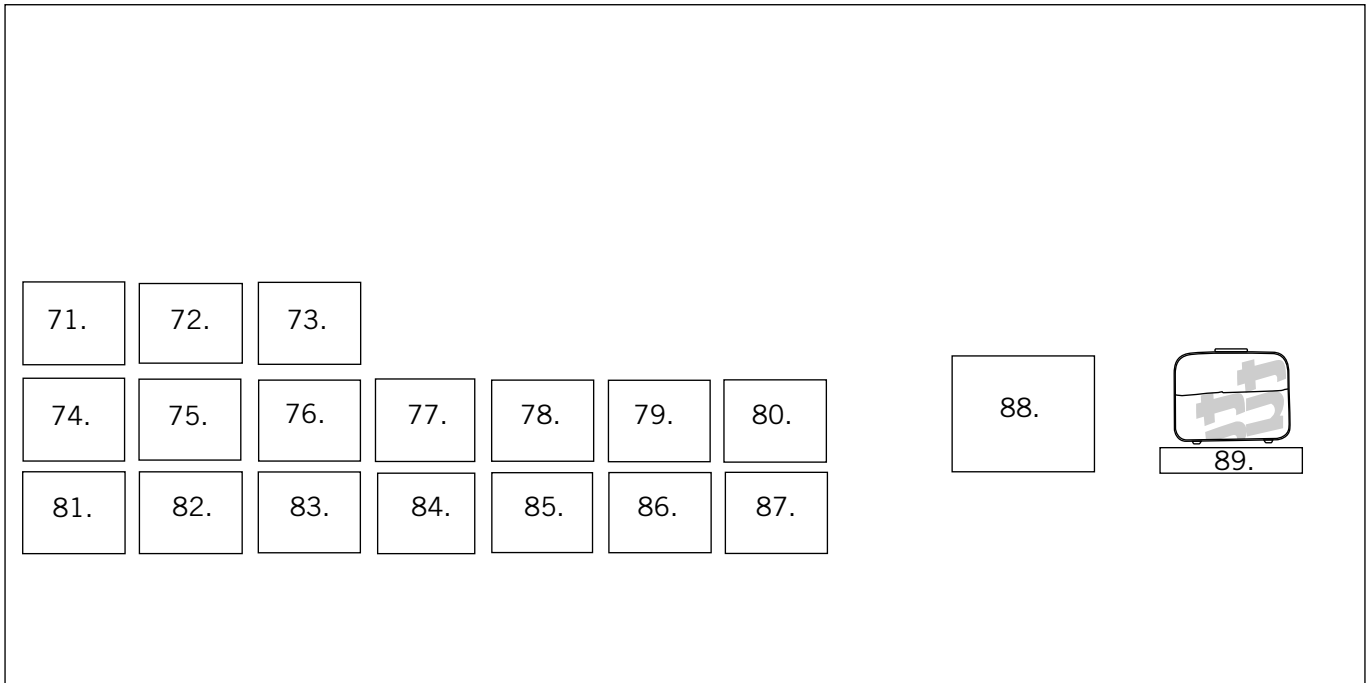
50. *tiger*, 1965
51. *for eleanor*, 1964  
Collection of Juliette Bellocq
52. *apples are basic*, 1966  
Private Collection
53. *fish*, 1964
54. *f is for food*, 1964
55. *our father*, 1964
56. *mary does laugh*, 1964  
Private Collection
57. *if*, 1965  
Private Collection
58. *song about the greatness*, 1964  
Private Collection
59. *peache bread*, 1964
60. *tender be - part one - sr. william*,  
1964  
Collection of Siri Gopal Singh
61. *tender be - part two - sr. william*,  
1964  
Collection of Siri Gopal Singh

# J

62.	63.	64.
65.	66.	67.
68.	69.	70.

- 62. *a is for astrology, 1968*
- 63. *b is for be-ins, 1968*
- 64. *c is for clowns etc., 1968*
- 65. *g is for game, 1968*
- 66. *h is for my heart, 1968*
- 67. *i is for eye, 1968*
- 68. *q is for cutie pie, 1968*
- 69. *r is for rabbit, 1968*
- 70. *s is for saint, 1968*

# K



71. *d is for digging it*, 1968

72. *e is for everyone*, 1968

73. *f is for frog prince*, 1968

74. *j is for jesus*, 1968

75. *k is for knight*, 1968

76. *l ia for ladybug*, 1968

77. *m is for magick*, 1968

78. *n is for caution*, 1968

79. *o is for god*, 1968

80. *p is for palm*, 1968

81. *t is for two*, 1968

82. *u is for us*, 1968

83. *v is for vibrations*, 1968

84. *w is for white stone*, 1968

85. *x marks the spot*, 1968

86. *y is for why not*, 1968

87. *z is for zorba*, 1968

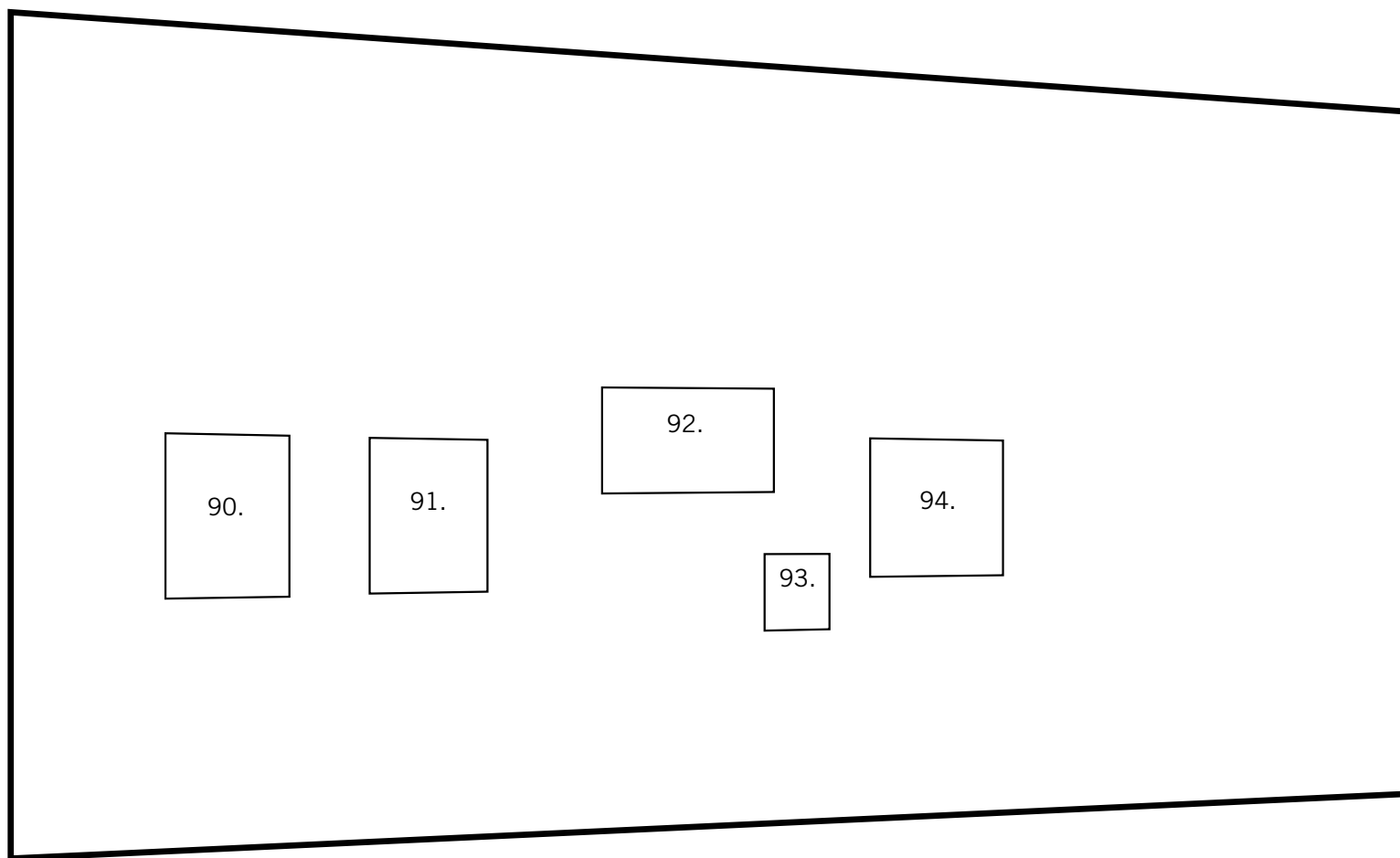
88. *words of prayer*, 1968

Collection of Siri Gopal Singh

89. *morning*, 1976

Samsonite suitcase prototype

L



90. *love is hard work*, 1985

91. *community*, 1982

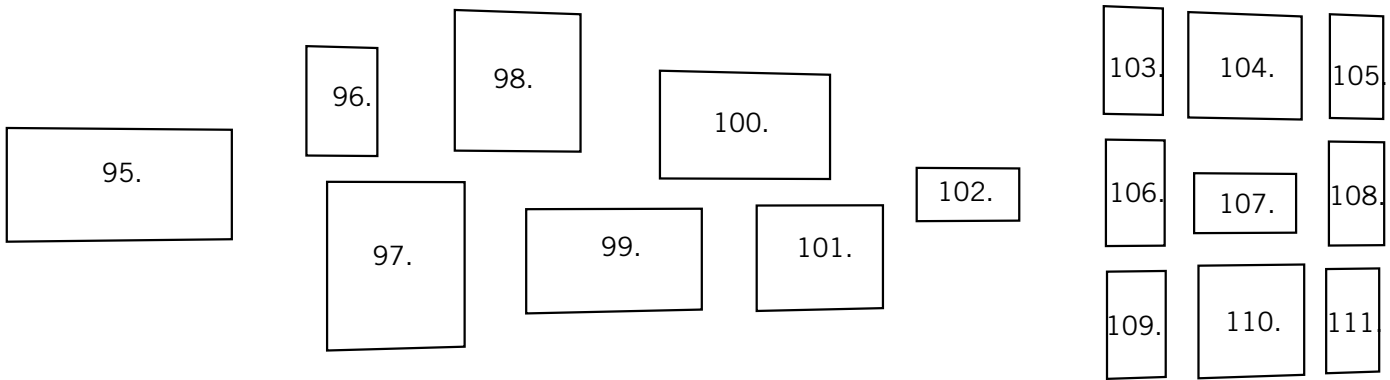
92. *it's up to you*, 1981

93. *even a slug*, 1976

94. *growing*, 1972

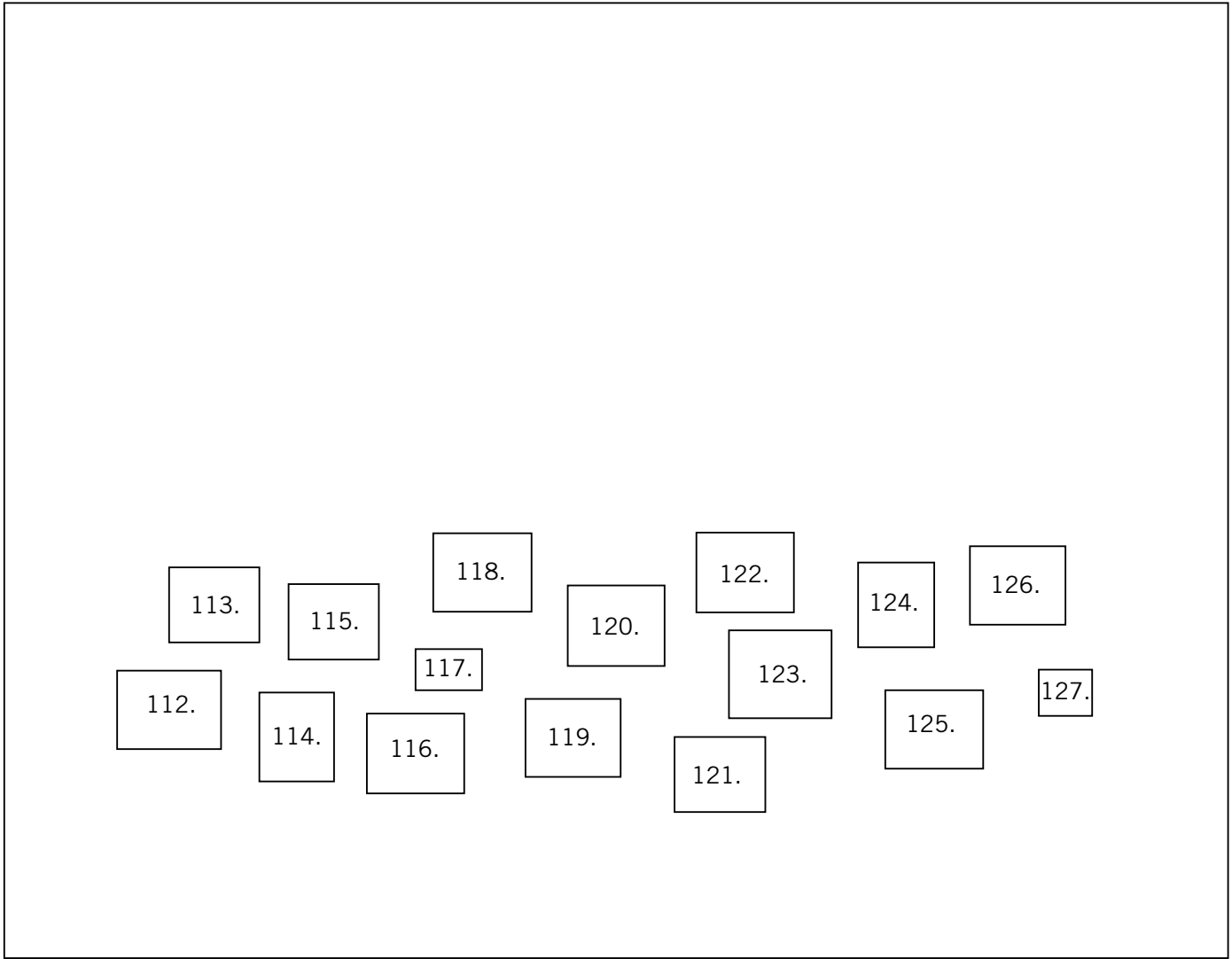


L



- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 95. <i>you shoot at yourself, america</i> , 1968 | 104. <i>god is alive</i> , 1969         |
| 96. <i>american sampler</i> , 1969               | 105. <i>news of the week</i> , 1969     |
| 97. <i>downwards as well</i> , 1972              | 106. <i>manflowers</i> , 1969           |
| 98. <i>let the sun shine</i> , 1968              | 107. <i>chavez</i> , 1969               |
| 99. <i>in memory of rfk</i> , 1968               | 108. <i>sacred heart</i> , 1969         |
| 100. <i>my people</i> , 1965                     | 109. <i>if i</i> , 1969                 |
| 101. <i>only you and i</i> , 1969                | 110. <i>road signs</i> , 1969 (2 parts) |
| 102. <i>the stamp of thoreau</i> , 1969          | 111. <i>king's dream</i> , 1969         |
| 103. <i>phil and dan</i> , 1969                  |   |

# M

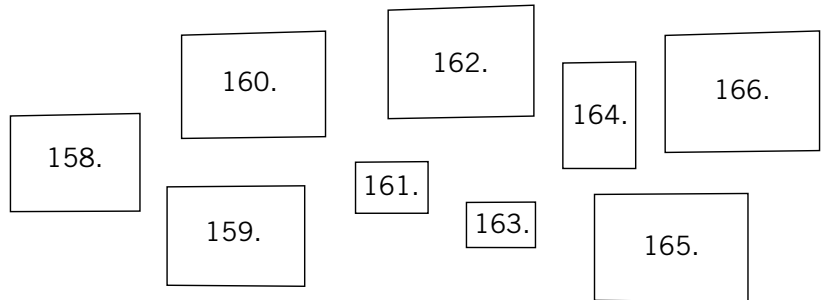


- 112. *Untitled*, 1985  
Watercolor on Paper
- 113. *Untitled*, 1982  
Watercolor on Paper
- 114. *Untitled*, 1984  
Watercolor on Paper
- 115. *Untitled*, 1982  
Watercolor on Paper
- 116. *Untitled*, 1985  
Watercolor on Paper
- 117. *Untitled*, 1985  
Watercolor on Paper
- 118. *Untitled*, 1984  
Watercolor on Paper
- 119. *Untitled*, 1985  
Watercolor on Paper
- 120. *Untitled*, 1985  
Watercolor on Paper

- 121. *Untitled*, 1985  
Watercolor on Paper
- 122. *Untitled*, 1984  
Watercolor on Paper
- 123. *Untitled*, 1985  
Watercolor on Paper
- 124. *Untitled*, 1981  
Watercolor on Paper
- 125. *Untitled*, 1985  
Watercolor on Paper
- 126. *Untitled*, 1985  
Watercolor on Paper
- 127. *Untitled*, 1982  
Watercolor on Paper

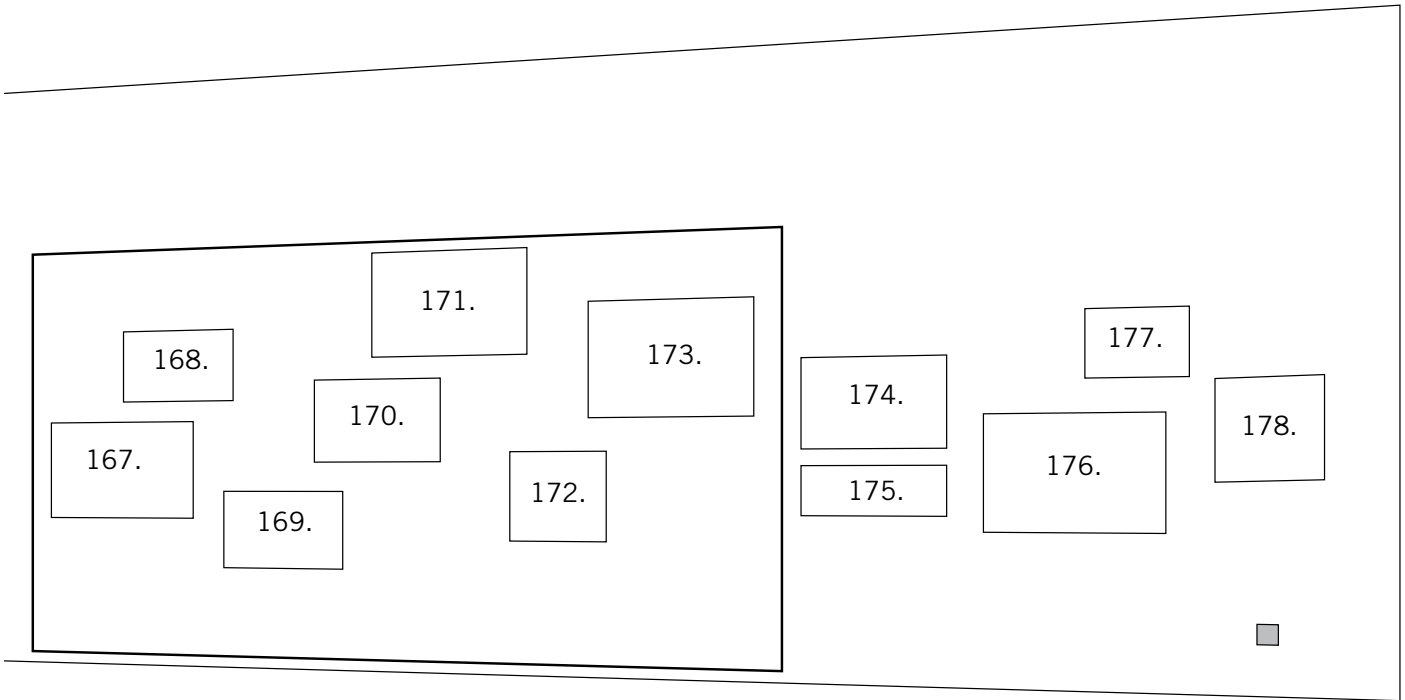
# N

128.	129.	130.	131.	132.	133.
134.	135.	136.	137.	138.	139.
140.	141.	142.	143.	144.	145.
146.	147.	148.	149.	150.	151.
152.	153.	154.	155.	156.	157.



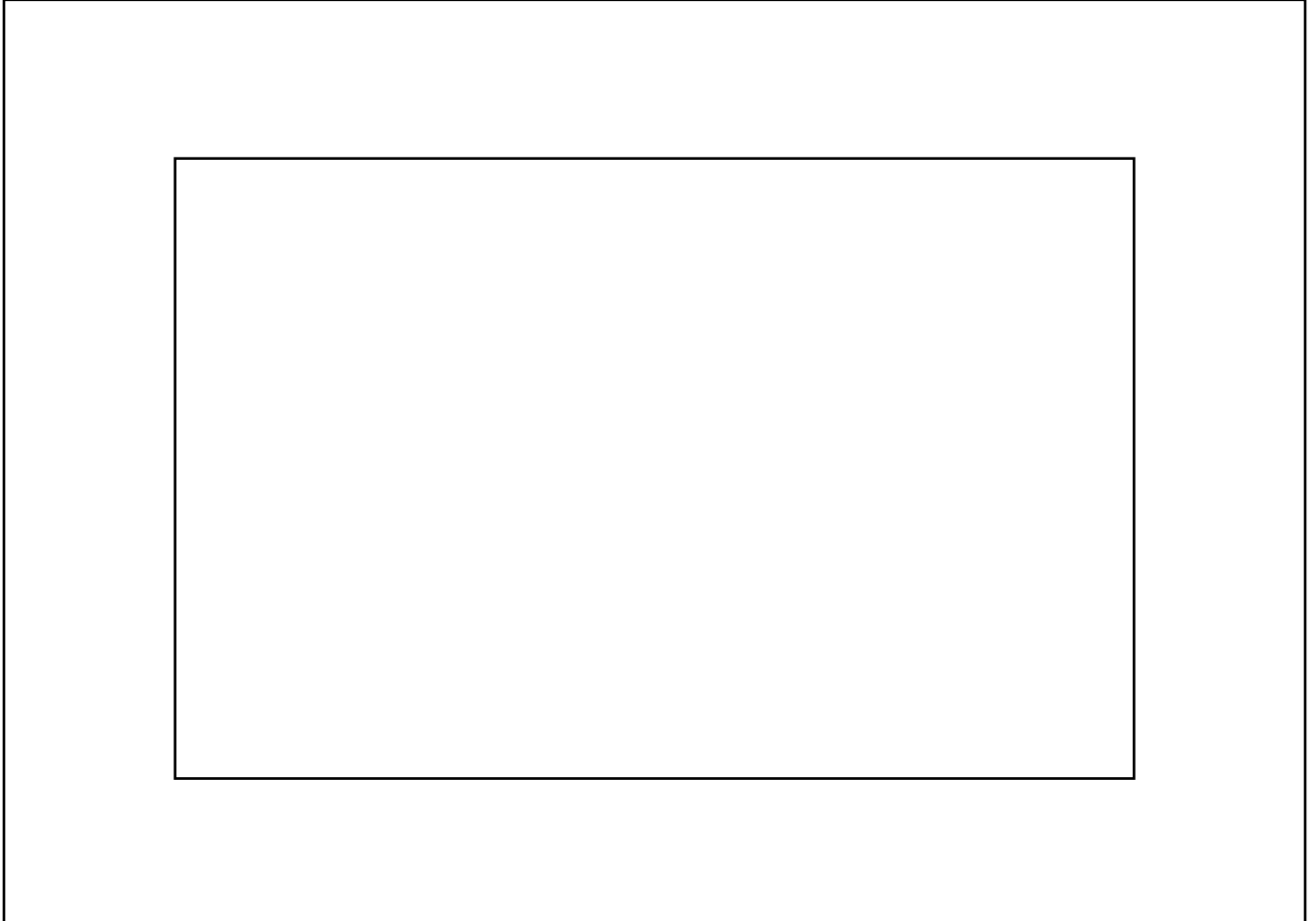
- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| 128. <i>A i love that one</i> , 1968              | 141. <i>N willing to be vulnerable</i> , 1968 | 154. <i>damn</i> , 1968                  |
| 129. <i>B beauty you</i> , 1968                   | 142. <i>G O greatest show of worth</i> , 1968 | 155. <i>everything</i> , 1968            |
| 130. <i>C capital clown</i> , 1968                | 143. <i>P prize boxes</i> , 1968              | 156. <i>but the</i> , 1968               |
| 131. <i>D everything coming up daisies</i> , 1968 | 144. <i>Q elephant's q</i> , 1968             | 157. <i>circus</i> , 1968                |
| 132. <i>E eye love</i> , 1968                     | 145. <i>R rosey runners</i> , 1968            | 158. <i>we care</i> , 1966               |
| 133. <i>F full of clown</i> , 1968                | 146. <i>S my favorite symbols</i> , 1968      | 159. <i>bell brand</i> , 1967            |
| 134. <i>G O greatest show of worth</i> , 1968     | 147. <i>T the tight rope</i> , 1968           | 160. <i>handle with care</i> , 1967      |
| 135. <i>H i carry your heart</i> , 1968           | 148. <i>U u are a tiger</i> , 1968            | 161. <i>be patient</i> , 1967            |
| 136. <i>I i am coming alive</i> , 1968            | 149. <i>V very interesting</i> , 1968         | 162. <i>highly prized</i> , 1967         |
| 137. <i>J gentle stirring</i> , 1968              | 150. <i>W what every woman knows</i> , 1968   | 163. <i>come alive</i> , 1967            |
| 138. <i>K kiss</i> , 1968                         | 151. <i>X give a damn</i> , 1968              | 164. <i>solw</i> , 1967                  |
| 139. <i>L love drops</i> , 1968                   | 152. <i>Y why worry</i> , 1968                | 165. <i>new hope</i> , 1966              |
| 140. <i>M however measured</i> , 1968             | 153. <i>Z do your thing</i> , 1968            | 166. <i>a man you can lean on</i> , 1966 |

# N



167. *the sure one*, 1966
168. *yellow submarine*, 1967
169. *with love to the everyday miracle*, 1967
170. *things go better with*, 1967
171. *somebody had to break the rules*, 1967
172. *harness the sun*, 1967
173. *left*, 1967
174. *(give the gang) the clue is in the signs*, 1966
175. *(our best) reality proves very little*, 1966
176. *help the big bird*, 1966
177. *stop the bombing*, 1967
178. *life is a complicated business*, 1967

0



*Ten Rules for Students and Teachers: Corita On Teaching and Celebration, 2007*

DVD with two films by Baylis Glascock:

*We Have No Art*, 26 minutes

*Mary's Day 1964*, 12 minutes

Courtesy of the Frances Young Tang Teaching Museum and Art Gallery at Skidmore College

MOCA

MUSEUM OF  
CONTEMPORARY ART  
CLEVELAND