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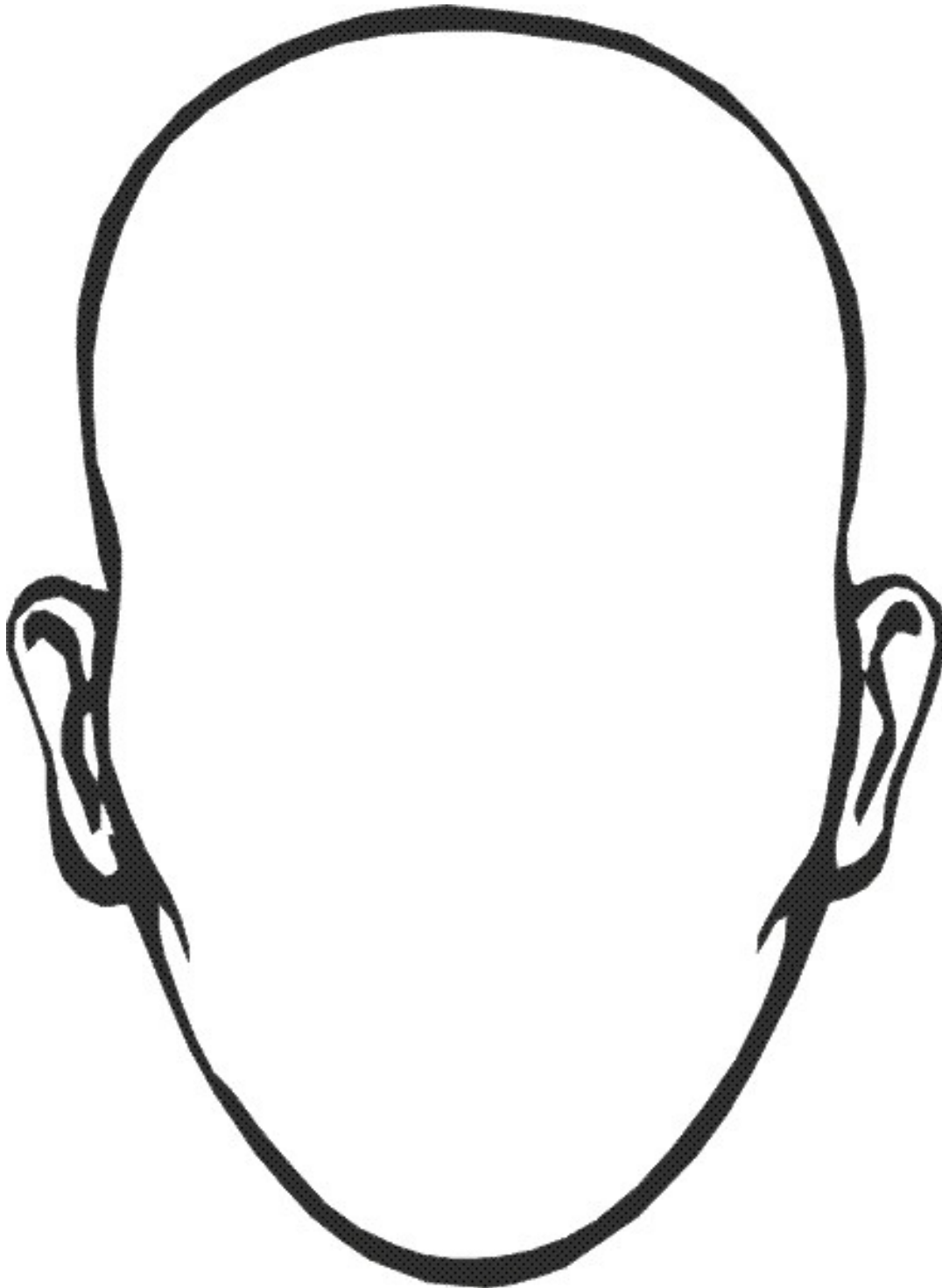
SYMBOLIC MASK CASTING

Use this template to plan out your mask casting design. Feel free to come up with more than one blueprint. Your design can evolve and change through-out the process.

Use the space below to also explain your design and the symbolism behind your concept. Take inspiration from the online lesson and attached links along with your own life and story. What makes you...you?

Theme Ideas to get you started:

Heritage, culture, religion, social justice, zodiac, family, goals, strengths, animals, hobbies, music, characteristics, emotions, books, idols, paintings



A large, empty rounded rectangular box with a black border, intended for writing a design blueprint or explanation.

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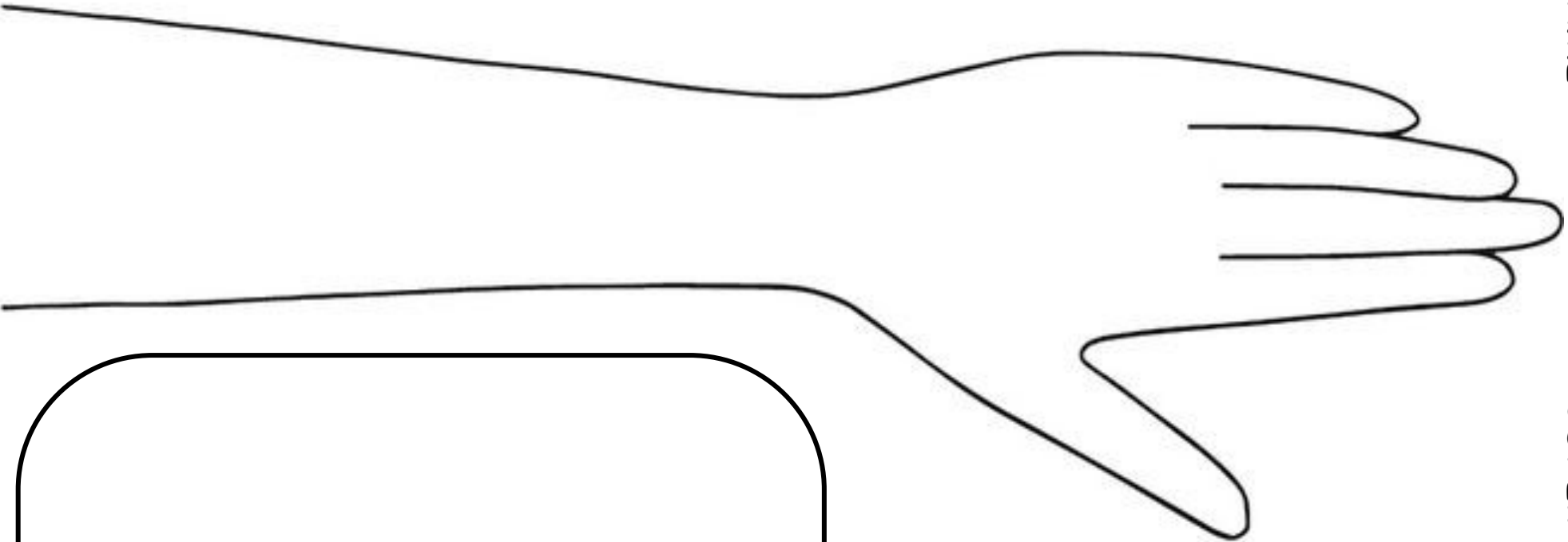
SYMBOLIC ARMCASTING

Use this template to plan out your arm casting design. Feel free to come up with more than one blueprint. Your design can evolve and change through-out the process.

Use the space below to also explain your design and the symbolism behind your concept. Take inspiration from the online lesson and attached links along with your own life and story. What makes you...you?

Theme Ideas to get you started:

Heritage, culture, religion, social justice, zodiac, family, goals, strengths, animals, hobbies, music, characteristics, emotions, books, idols, paintings



A large, empty rounded rectangular box with a black border, intended for students to write their design explanation and theme ideas.



BEN JONES - BLACK FACE AND ARM UNIT, 1971

Black Face and Arm Unit is an installation consisting of 30 life-size plaster casts of faces and arms, each of them furiously decorated with intensely colorful dots and stripes arranged in patterns, although there are many areas in which the decoration is intentionally formless and even crude. Still, the immediate and intended reference is to body-painting traditions across Africa, where skin is often regarded as blank canvas.

Traditionally, body painting was used in African societies to denote social status or signify religious belief. While it is hard to discern any specific cultural markings on the painted plaster casts for "Black Face and Arm Unit," that is not really the point. Mr. Jones's decorative designs are abstract, gesturing to the religious legacy of body painting while at the same time being above or outside that world. The work was a catalyst for him to explore his African roots more deeply, as several later pieces on this theme reveal.

BEN JONES — VISUAL ARTIST

Ben Jones is an artist, activist, and educator, who uses his art to bring awareness to the plight of humanity throughout the world. A native of Paterson, NJ, Ben Jones co-founded the African American Cultural Committee at Montclair Art Museum years ago. The Ben Jones Scholarship was established to honor the artist's life-long commitment to youth art education and diversity in the arts.

"The art of Ben Jones is a spiritual journey that continues the struggle for identity, freedom, justice and love for the salvation of the human family. Ben reveals his sense of responsibility to his ancestral legacy by continuing the work against oppression, exploitation and hegemony through the symbolic power of his work.

Ben has battled much of his life for spaces where his culture can be honored and respected with equal validity amongst others. His struggle has been a journey documented not only in the array of his works, but in the actions he has taken as an activist and speaker on the political issues of our time...Each of Ben's humble offerings reveals his prayer for greater understanding and love. At a glance we witness instances of transformative energies called forth for a world still within our grasp, if we open our minds and our hearts..."

"My advice to aspiring artists is...to get all the art exposure you can get and one of the best places to get it is at a museum...take workshops and have contact with great teachers and other young people who are also aspiring artists."