

# The Wedge Collection



# Dancing in the Light



Part Two of  
*The City is a Collection*  
series



**Educator Resource**

Recommended for Grade 6–12

Museum  
Of  
**Contemporary  
Art**

Toronto Canada

# The Wedge Collection

## Dancing in the Light

**Overview** *Dancing in the Light* is an exhibition of portraiture drawn from The Wedge Collection. The exhibition continues MOCA Toronto's ongoing series, *The City is a Collection*, which brings some of Toronto's most engaging private collections to the public.

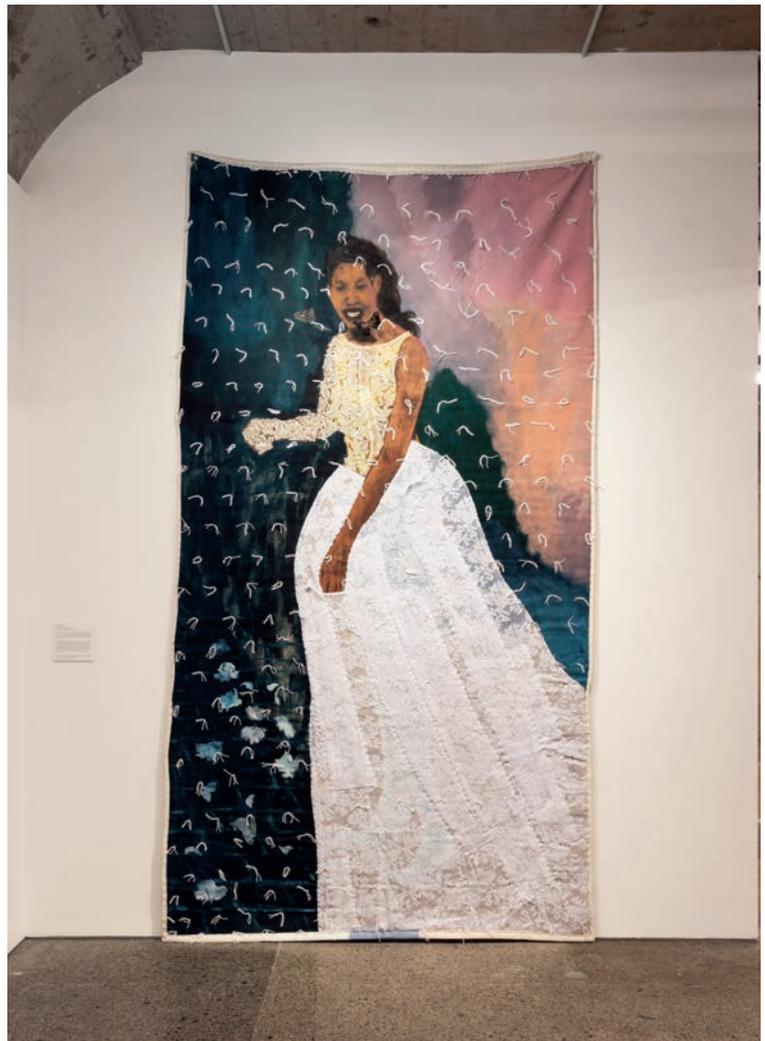
Featuring the work of over 40 artists, including Oreka James, Carrie Mae Weems, Jonathan Lyndon Chase, and Lynette Yiadom-Boakye, *Dancing in the Light* examines portraiture across a variety of mediums as a way of entering into a more nuanced consideration of contemporary Black life. Rethinking moments of stillness and vulnerability as instances of strength, the exhibition works against the flattened and commodified image of Blackness so often experienced within art history and popular visual culture.

*Dancing in the Light* has been conceived of as a capacious place for gathering and study, offering visitors comfortable seating as well as an array of books and music with which to engage. *Dancing in the Light* has been curated and designed by Farida Abu-Bakare and Kate Wong.

## The Wedge Collection

The Wedge Collection was established in 1997 by Dr. Kenneth Montague. Originally conceived as a small gallery literally "wedged" inside the narrow hallways of his home, the collection now encompasses over four hundred works of art, making it one of Canada's largest private collections focusing on African diasporic culture and contemporary Black life.

The exhibition is a testament to the vital role that Montague has played both as a collector and community-builder and a reflection of his love for art and his deeply humanistic approach to life.



Installation view, *Dancing in the Light* at MOCA Toronto Courtesy of Dr. Kenneth Montague | The Wedge Collection. Photo by Laura Findlay



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## Guiding Questions

*Dancing in the Light* is a collection of portraits in a variety of mediums, from photography to collage to oil painting. **What is a portrait? What is a self-portrait?**

While some of these works feature individuals, these pieces are communicating bigger ideas of race, culture, family and community. **What idea or subject matter connects all of the portraits in *Dancing in the Light*?**

What stood out to you about the way the artists chose to create those portraits? **How would you depict yourself in a similar vulnerable and nuanced way?**

## Glossary

**Collection.** A term that refers to accumulating works of art by an individual person, organization or a public institution. The Wedge Collection is a group of art owned by Kenneth Montague.

**Mixtape.** Is a series of songs, usually different artists, collected together. It can be a playlist or recorded onto a cassette tape or CD to be enjoyed by the creator. Usually made by a listener, rather than a musician.



Installation view, Dancing in the Light at MOCA Toronto Courtesy of Dr. Kenneth Montague | The Wedge Collection. Photo by Laura Findlay

## Ontario Curriculum Connections

### Visual Art

Grade 6 – 8

- D1. Creating and Presenting
- D2. Reflecting, Responding and Analysing
- D3. Exploring Forms and Cultural Contexts

Grade 9 – 12

- A. Creating and Presenting
- B. Reflecting, Responding and Analysing
- C. Foundations

### Music

Grade 6-8

- C2. Reflecting, Responding, and Analysing

Grades 9-12

- B3. Skills and Personal Growth

### Social Studies

Grade 6

- A. Heritage and Identity

### History

Grade 7-8

- B. Conflict and Challenges

Grades 9-12

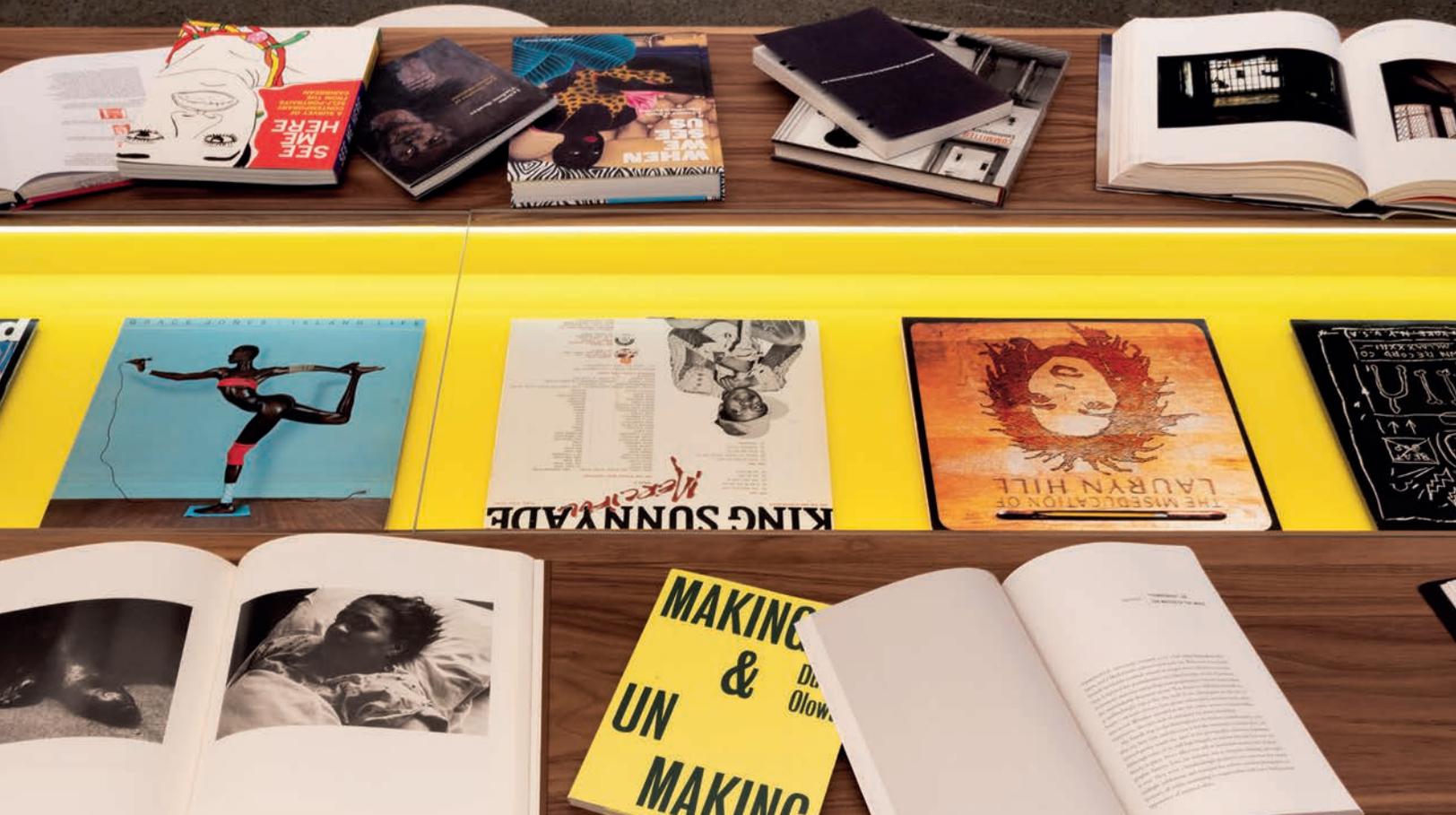
- B3. Diversity and Citizenship

## Key Ideas

Representation, self-portraits, identity.

## Materials

- Album art template (CD, Vinyl, Cassette or digital)
  - Drawing materials, for example:
    - Pencils
    - Pens
    - Markers
    - Or other materials of your choice
- Scissors
- Glue
- Masking tape
- Rulers
- Internet access (optional)



Installation view, *Dancing in the Light* at MOCA Toronto Courtesy of Dr. Kenneth Montague | The Wedge Collection. Photo by Laura Findlay

## Instructions

In this project, students will create a self-portrait in the form of a mixtape, creating both a track list and original album art.

Before you begin, we recommend a classroom guided tour or self-guided visit to MOCA to experience the exhibit. You may also find works from The Wedge Collection on their website.

Introduce this project through the discussion questions to define portraiture and then introduce the concept of a mixtape.

Demonstrate how album art template becomes a CD or vinyl sleeve. Ideally, show how this may fit the disc inside. Show how digital works also have album art on streaming sites.

Show examples of album art and then discuss how the art works to represent the music.

Students may start with either the tracklist, or designing the cover of the album.

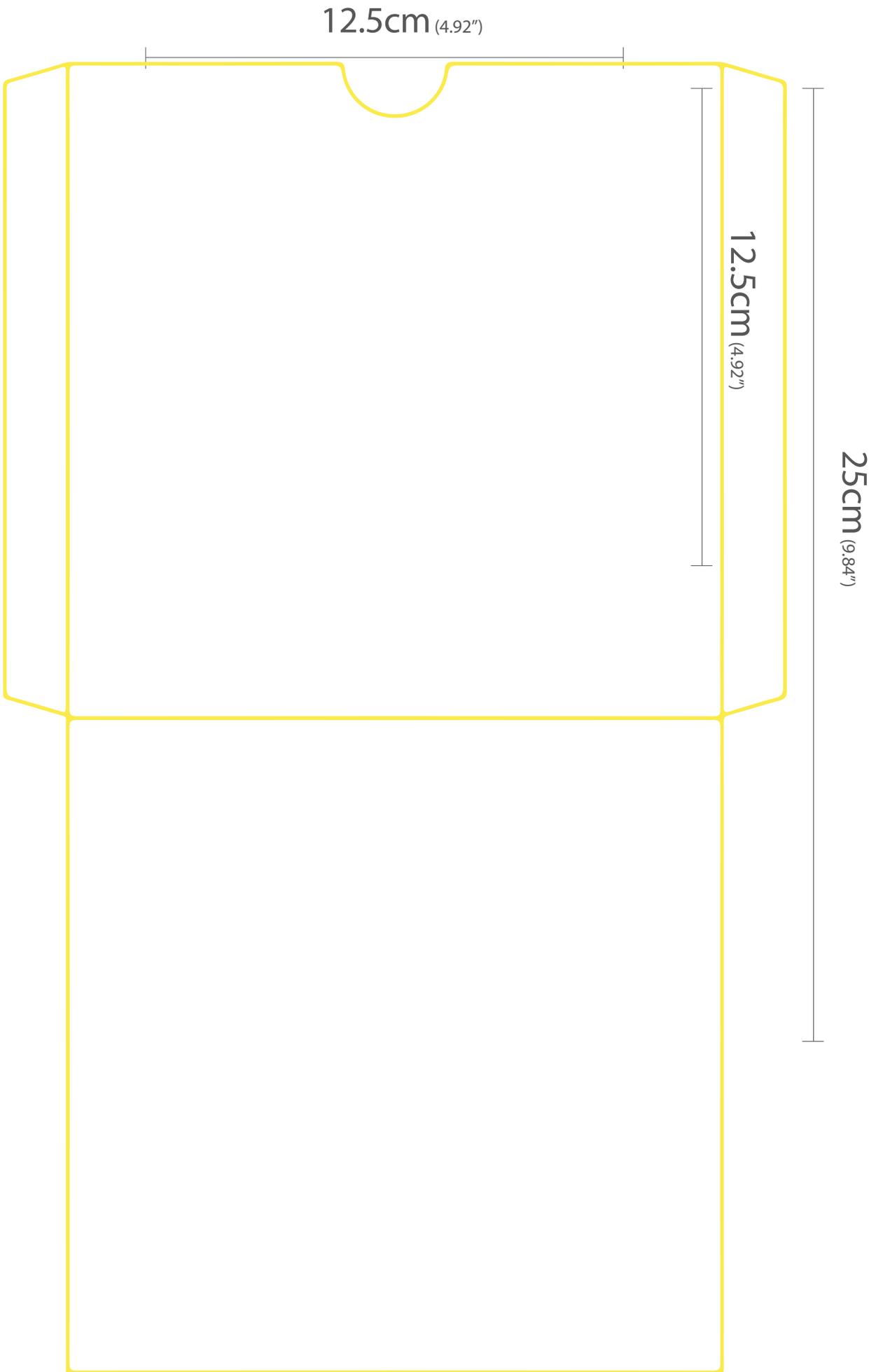
Their album art can be in the format of a digital album art, a vinyl, cassette or a CD. Each format may be a different shape, so we encourage educators to have multiple templates available. Templates are available on the next page of this educator guide.

Their album art should be a self-portrait, but does not necessarily need to be a drawing of the student. It could represent their personality, the music they chose, or be completely abstract. This should be a tool for their individual self-expression.

Once complete, the student will assemble the sleeve via folding and glue or upload their image to their digital mixtape.

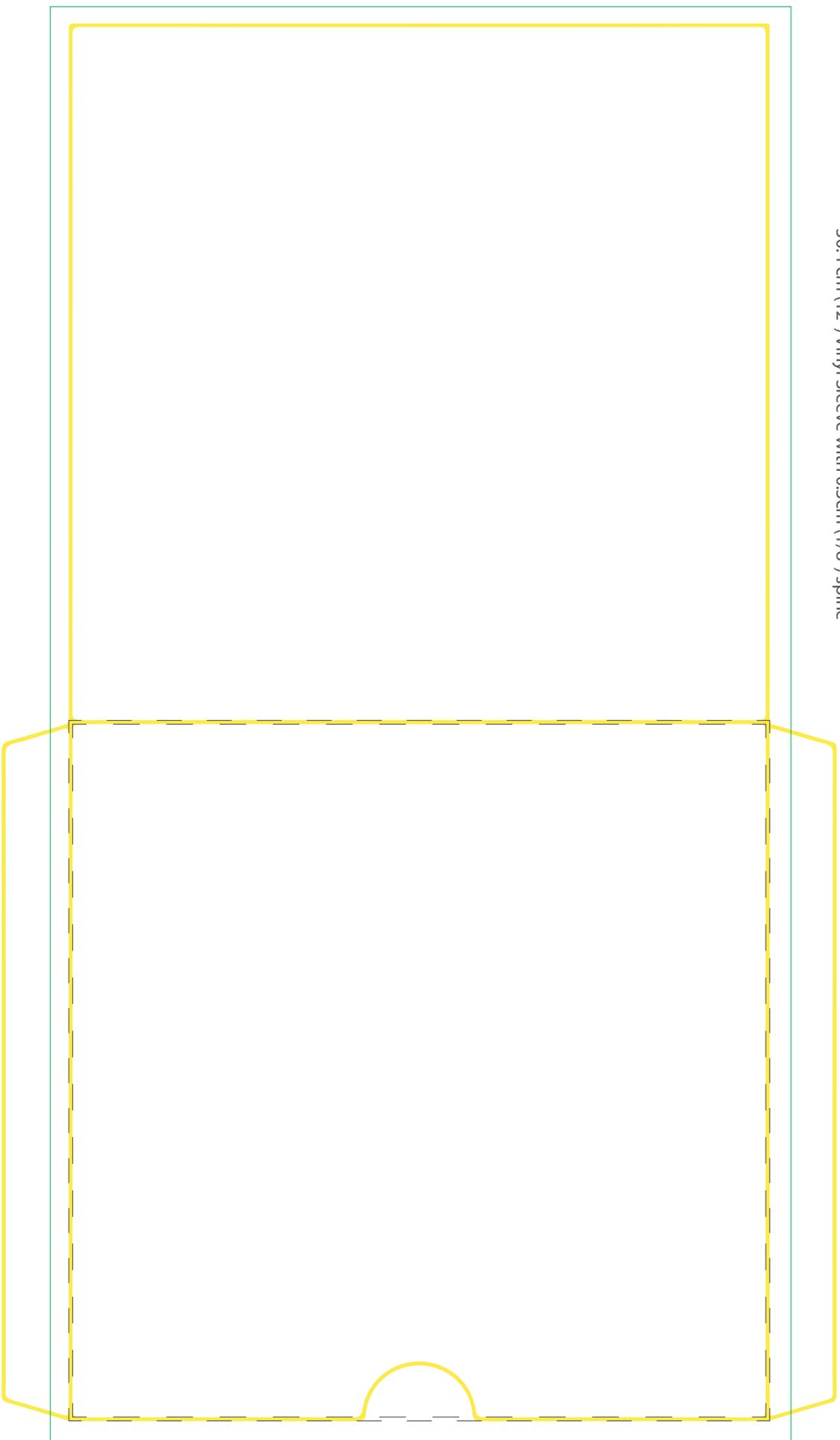
## Reflection

Facilitate a group discussion about their art, album title, and song choices.



CD Cover Template

30.4 cm (12") Vinyl Sleeve with 0.3cm (1/8") spine



0.8cm (5/16") Bleed

