

Global Connections

Eternal Resemblance I, Omar Ba

Interconnectedness is at the heart of Omar Ba's work. Exploring connections between climate change, colonialism, and the use and abuse of power, Omar's artwork challenges the idea of the individual, instead inviting the viewer to consider their relationship with their communities and environment.

In *Eternal Resemblance I*, a winding blue web, interrupted by small groups of silhouetted figures representing individuals within a community, covers the composition. Surrounding the figures are clouds of scalloped white lines, marking the outlines of their bodies. White-veined leaves sprout from the blue web, symbolizing a connection to the natural world. Segmented red forms grow between each cloud form, linking them to the larger framework. Although the figures seem to exist in their own space between the lines, they are connected by the web that they live in.

The title of the artwork speaks to the lasting connection between humans and our ancestors, and in turn, our successors, through our actions—both good and bad. Omar is a native of Senegal and works in Geneva, Switzerland, but *Eternal Resemblance I* is not fixed to a singular place or time. The artwork serves as a reminder that the decisions of people in one country or time period can deeply impact lives and communities around the world.



Omar Ba. *Eternal Resemblance I*. 2017. Oil, acrylic, India ink, gouache, and colored pencil on craft paper with polyester foam. 75 3/8 × 55 1/8 in. (191.5 × 140 cm). Friedman Family Collection. © Omar Ba. Image courtesy the artist and Hales, London and New York

Classroom Activities

- Create a perspective web of ideas using a ball of yarn. Start by having students form a circle. Provide the prompt “What does community mean to you?” and, keeping hold of the loose end, pass the ball of yarn to a student. After they have responded, they will gently throw the ball of yarn to another student, who will then add on to the previous thought. Continue this activity until all students have shared, thus creating a web of ideas.

More information and complete instructions for this activity visit artbma.org/perspectiveweb

- Omar Ba is interested in the idea that all people are connected, regardless of distance, time period, or culture. To learn about and celebrate the different cultures represented in their classroom, invite students to create posters that illustrate their heritage using images and words. Have each student share their poster, then discuss commonalities between different cultures as a class.

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Eternal Resemblance 1 (Detail), Omar Ba

Omar Ba. *Eternal Resemblance 1* (Detail). 2017. Oil, acrylic, India ink, gouache, and colored pencil on craft paper with polyester foam.
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