

Guided Exploration of *Los Carpinteros'*

La Montaña Rusa

Based on an interpretation by Kristjan, Maria and Tamara



This multi-sensory interpretation of the sculptural installation *La Montaña Rusa* by Cuban artist collective *Los Carpinteros*, reflects the collective's focus on the theme of juxtaposition.



Juxtaposition | *noun*

refers to the placement of two elements close together with contrasting effect in order to highlight the differences and similarities.

Like this:

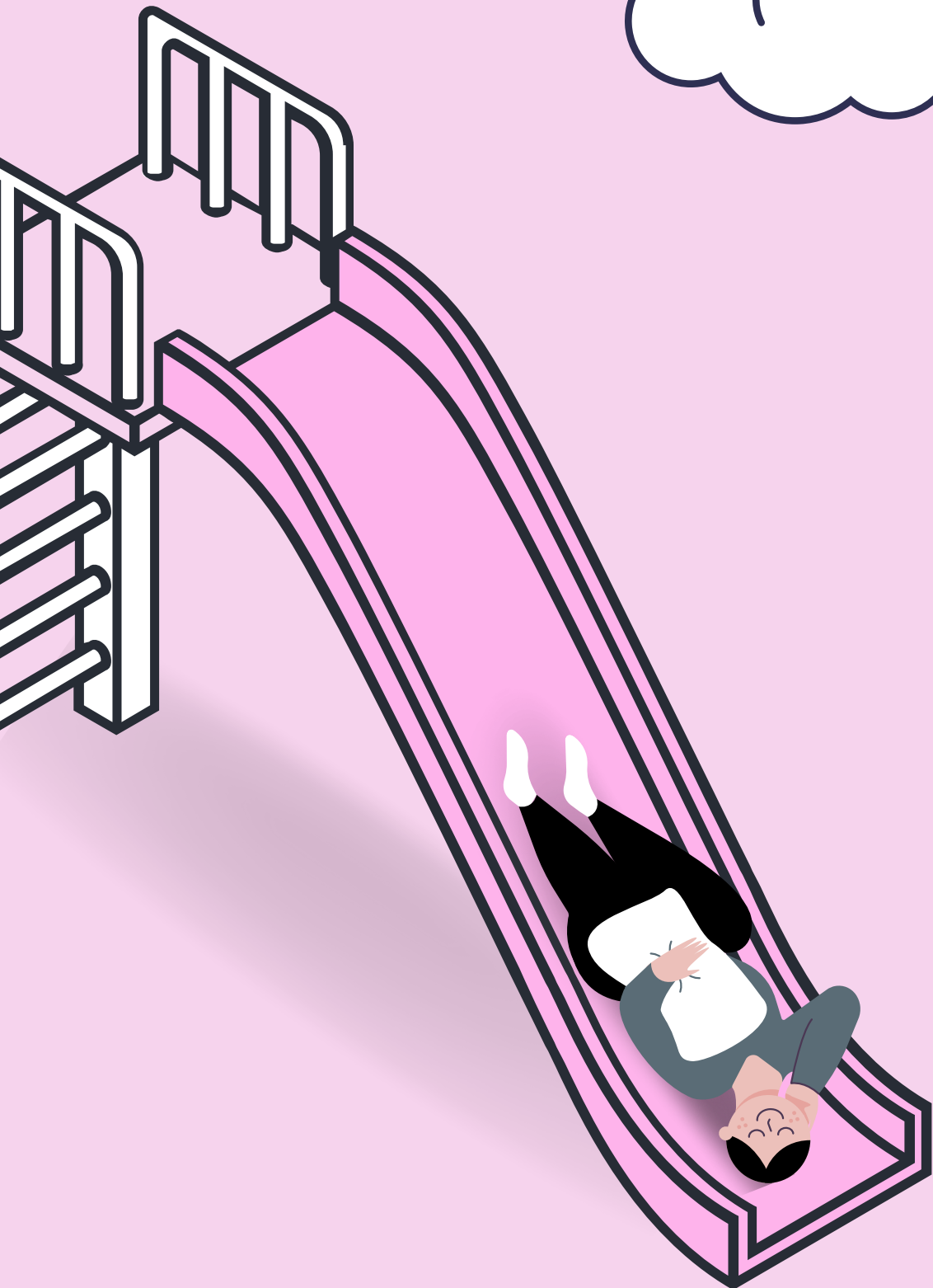


(try your own juxtaposition!)

Or this:



Prompt 1



Materials:

- Pillow
- Slide

Alternatives:

- Rolled up scarf or jacket
- Angled surface (hill/seat)

01

Take a pillow (or similar alternative) to the nearest park with a slide

02

Go down the slide (or other angled surface) holding your pillow under your head

03

Once down and safe to do so, lay with your feet facing up the slope. Observe or imagine the sky

Reflect: Is this a moment of rest or play?

Prompt 2

Materials:

- Bedroom/place of rest
- Rollercoaster sounds
- Hairdryer/fan



01 Go to your bedroom (or place of rest) with a hairdryer (or fan)

02 Get ready to sleep-change into pyjamas, turn off the lights, proceed with your bedtime routine

03 Once ready, imagine your bed is the cart on a rollercoaster ride. Listen to rollercoaster sounds (from the video) to enhance this experience

04 Turn the hairdryer on cool and direct it at times to your face while listening to the sounds

Reflect: How does this activity affect your sleep? Does it have an impact on your thoughts or dreams?

Prompt 3

Materials:

- Pink, sugary treats (cotton candy, bubble gum)
- Calming substances (tea, scented oils)



01

Gather classically pink sugary treats that are often associated with amusement parks and fairs, such as cotton candy, bubble gum, or even pink lemonade

02

Get something that would be calming to have before bed, such as chamomile or herbal tea, soothing scented oils like lavender, or anything else that might help you wind down

03

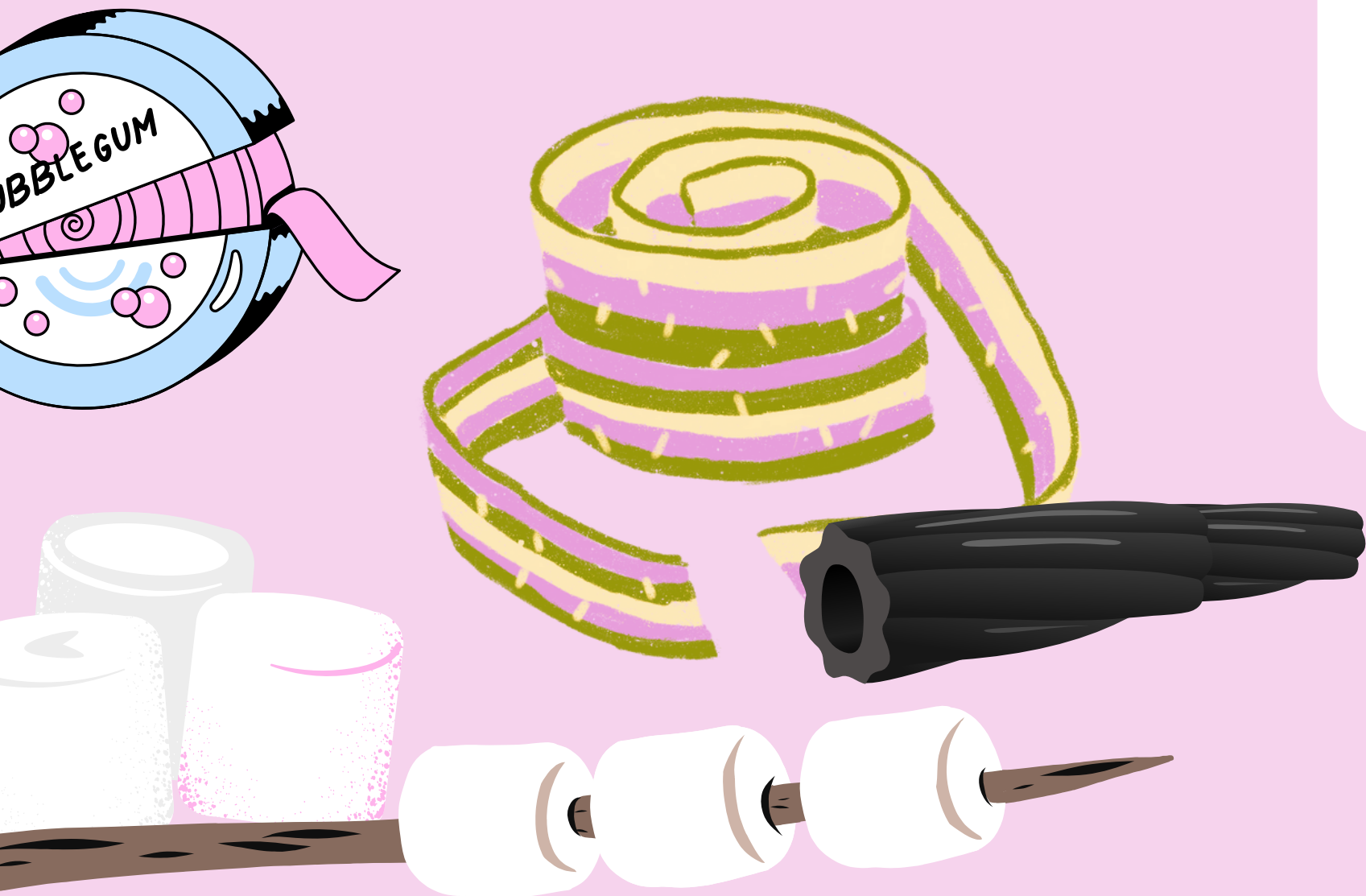
Taste or smell the flavours simultaneously while closing your eyes

Reflect: Do these items contradict or enhance one another? Do you find them soothing, stimulating, or do you have another response?

Prompt 4

Materials:

- Food items that may be reminiscent of the contrasting textures featured in the artwork



01

The colour and shape of the mattresses are very similar to Bubble Gum Tape or Rainbow Stripped candies.

02

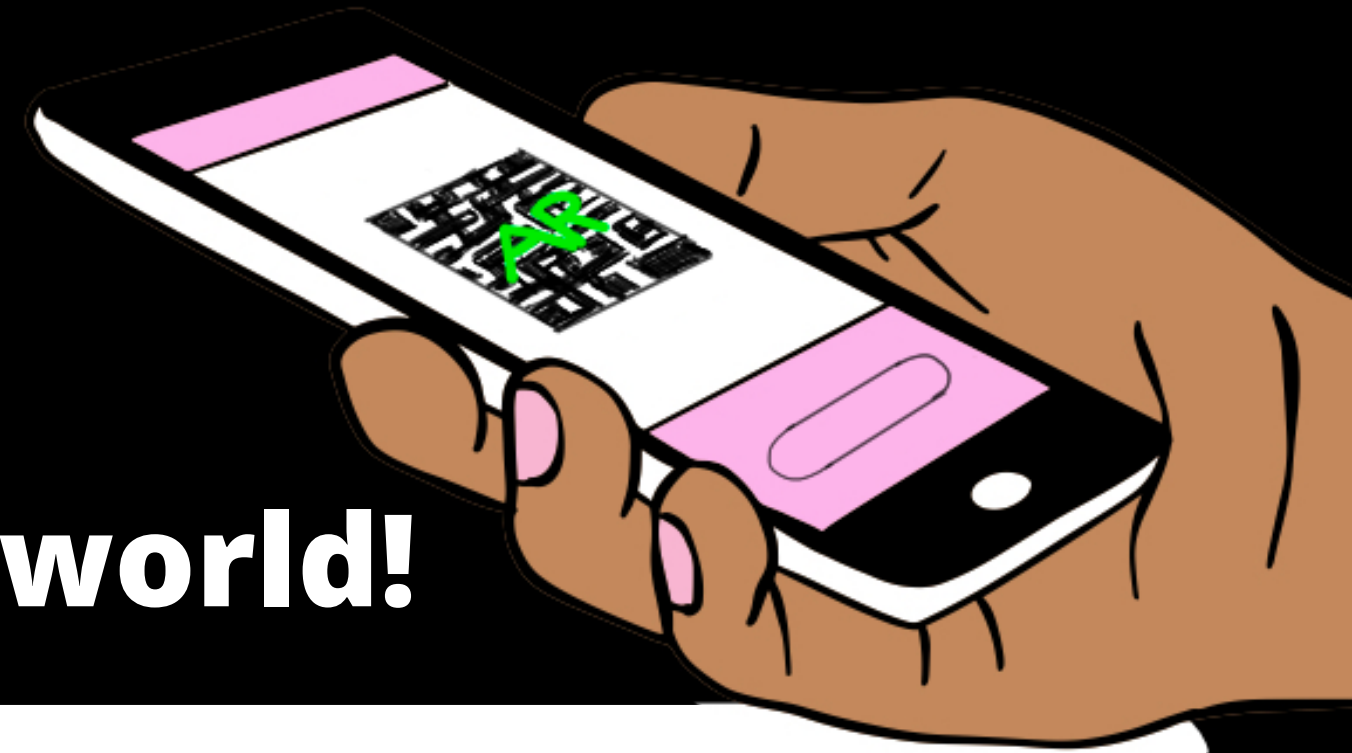
The pillow is much like a squishy marshmallow. Perhaps there are other treats that you find pillow-like in texture

03

The shiny black bars that curve along with the bending mattress are somewhat like ropes of black licorice – maybe there is something more steel-like such as hard candies that could also be appropriate

Reflect: How do the flavours and textures play off each other? Do you find these pairings enjoyable or unexpected in any way?

View La Montaña Rusa in your own world!



Full-scale Model



Mini Model

A 3D model of the sculpture can be viewed with an Augmented Reality capable device using the Adobe Aero free mobile app.

Have your own tactile version of La Montaña Rusa



Print your own 3D model

Materials:

- Cardboard
- Wooden dowels
- Tape
- Blade
- Glue gun
- Wire
- Pink fabric/ foam
- Black (spray)paint



Make your own cardboard version

Share your interpretations and explorations with

#TusMontanaRusa



REFERENCES

"Artist's Talk with Marco Castillo of Los Carpinteros." YouTube, uploaded by Institute for Research in Art – IRA, 3 June, 2016, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h7DQXeeiA_U.

Castillo, Marco & Rodríguez, Dagoberto. Interview. By Cuban Art News. 5 November, 2019, <https://repeatingislands.com/2019/11/05/los-carpinteros-on-cuba-va-interview/>.

Hein, G. "The Constructivist Museum. Introduction." *Journal for Education in Museums*, No. 16, 1995 (p21-23).

"In Conversation with Los Carpinteros (Part II)." *The Phillips Collection Blog, Experiment Station*, 11 December, 2019, <https://blog.phillipscollection.org/2019/12/11/conversation-los-carpinteros-part-ii/>.

Levant, N. & Pascual-Leone, A. "The Multisensory Museum: Cross-disciplinary perspectives on touch, sound, smell, memory, and space." Lanham, Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2014.

"Los Carpinteros." YouTube, uploaded by Karsten W, 20 March, 2013, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L-FTE-io8RY>.

"Los Carpinteros: La Montaña Rusa." Skny, Sean Kelly Gallery, 21 March, 2008, <https://www.skny.com/exhibitions/los-carpinteros>.

Serrell, Beverly. *Exhibit Labels: An Interpretive Approach*. Washington, Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2015.