



## **MIKE KELLEY ARENA #7, 1990**

In this series of sculptures, found handmade and machine fabricated afghans and blankets are flanked with stuffed animals and displayed on the floor. Each sculpture, all of varying sizes, contains one specific motif and focuses on the assembly of stuffed animals in an “arena” for anthropomorphic observation. In the Arena #7, for example, four sides of a machine made blanket are surrounded with teddy bears and monkeys. One can imagine them holding a meeting or even attending a picnic.<sup>1</sup>

### **ADDITIONAL LINKS**

[REMEMBERING HENRY’S SHOW: SELECTED WORKS 1978-2008](#)

[THIRD DIMENSION: WORKS FROM THE BRANT FOUNDATION](#)

[MIKE KELLEY: ARENAS](#)

[MIKE KELLEY 99,9998% REMAINING](#)

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.skarstedt.com/gallery-exhibitions/mike-kelley3/press-release>



## ACTIVITY

Collect every day objects from around your house and create an “arena” of your own. Focus on a specific story or motif that you would like to communicate when arranging the items. Try to choose objects that show how they have been used, torn, or soiled over time, adding to the story behind your creation.

*Share your creations with us on Instagram  
@thebrantfoundation!*

## QUESTIONS

1. What are some reasons for why an artist would create an installation work?
2. What is your arena trying to convey?
3. What decisions did you make to create your arena?
4. How does the space around your arena help define your artwork? Does it complement or contrast with your installation?
5. Do you find creating your installation work more challenging than creating on paper or a two-dimensional surface?

## MATERIALS

Felt, stuffed animals, blankets, plastic bottles, cans, old toys

## EXAMPLES

