Marisol Escobar’s *The Family* takes a satirical look at the American family of the 1960s. In this sculpture, a stylish mother smiles mindlessly with a hat pulled over her eyes, literally blinded by her fashion accessory and distracted from attending to the four children that surround and confine her. The male of this family stands adjacent to his wife and is the only figure attached to the wall, encased in a tomb-like wooden panel and physically isolated from his wife and children. The effect suggests the trappings of this man’s and woman’s place in society and creates a division in the idealized family popularized in such mid-century media as the television show *Leave it to Beaver*. Marisol expands upon her witty take on the American family by putting child-sized adults in the baby carriage. In 1970 *Time* magazine featured *The Family* on its cover to illustrate "The U.S. Family: Help!", an article that lamented the demise of traditional family structures and shifting gender roles in contemporary America. More information about this piece [here](#).

What does your family look like? Does it look different today than it did a few months ago, before the pandemic?

**Activity**: Family Sculpture

**Materials:**
- Cardboard boxes
- Tape
- Misc. collage items (magazines, ribbon, buttons, pipe cleaners, items from recycle bin)

**Directions:**
- Collect materials.
- Arrange materials to create a sculptural figure for each member of your family.
- Take a photo of what you made.

**Tips:**
- Don’t overthink, experiment and have fun.
- Have family members help. Maybe they each create a different figure that is not them.

Marisol, *The Family*, 1963, wood, metal, graphite, textiles, paint, plaster and other accessories, 79 1/2 in. x 63 in. x 73 in. The Henry Melville Fuller Acquisition Fund.
Here are three different examples from Currier staff members. Have fun making yours!

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