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George Segal Depression Bread Line



George Segal, *Depression Bread Line*, 1991, plaster, wood, metal, and acrylic paint, 108 x 148 x 36 in. Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Bentonville, Arkansas, 2015.16. Photography by Edward C. Robinson III.

Take a moment to view this artwork by letting your eyes wander around the image. Can you stand like one of these figures? Make a list of descriptive words to describe how you think these figures are feeling.

The artist George Segal called this piece *Depression Bread Line*. The title comes from a time in US history called the Great Depression, when many people lost their jobs and homes. One form of help was food banks, places that gave food to those who needed it. How does knowing the story behind the artwork change how you connect to it? Think back to the words you chose to describe how the artwork makes you feel. Would you still use those words or would you choose different ones?

Think about a story you have heard where someone faced a challenge. This story could be from a family member, friend, a character in a book, song, or movie. Create a collage inspired by this story!



Grab these materials from your kit!

Canvas panel, pencil, paint tubes (note: these paints can stain), palette, paintbrushes, drawing paper, black permanent marker, glue stick

With permission from an adult, grab these materials from your home or classroom:

Scissors, a cup of water



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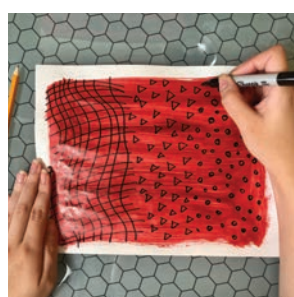
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STEP 1 Sketch your story onto the canvas panel with a pencil.

STEP 2 Use different combinations of the three colors to create orange, purple, green, or brown. Use a cup of water to clean your paintbrushes between colors.

STEP 3 Paint a solid color on each sheet of drawing paper. Set aside those painted sheets to dry. Then paint different lines and shapes on top of the solid colors.

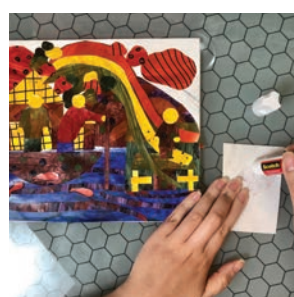
STEP 4 You can also use a black permanent marker to create lines and shapes on top of your paper.



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FINISHED

STEP 5 Look at your original sketch on your canvas panel. Redraw the shapes from your sketch onto the painted sheets of paper. Then cut those shapes out and arrange them on a flat surface.

STEP 6 Use a glue stick to put your shapes together on the canvas panel. Layer each shape on top of another shape starting with the background first.

STEP 7 Make sure to glue down any edges of any shapes sticking up. Share your finished story collage with a family member or friend.

#MyMuseumKit

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Teri Greeves Abstraction: Kiowa by Design



Teri Greeves, *Abstraction: Kiowa by Design*, 2014. Beads on canvas high-heeled sneakers, 11 1/2 x 10 x 4 in. each. Courtesy Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Bentonville, Arkansas. Photo: Stephen Lang

Take a moment to look at the image above. What do you notice?

Teri Greeves creates images inspired by her family's Native American traditions by stitching beads onto everyday objects. How are the shoes in the image similar or different from your own? Have you ever made changes to your own shoes?

Inspired by Shoshone artwork, Greeves places images of Kiowa women in ceremonial clothing on one side of the high-heeled shoes. On the other side of the shoes, the artist uses shapes and patterns inspired by Kiowa geometric beadwork. Clothing, shoes, and jewelry can tell stories about ourselves and our families.

Think about a special outfit that reflects something from your own family traditions.

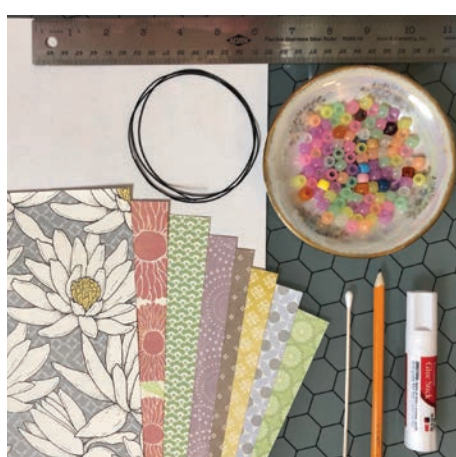
How would you describe it to a friend who has never seen it?

Who wears that special outfit and when do they wear it?

Now, think about the clothing, shoes, and jewelry in your own closet.

What colors, patterns, and shapes do you like to wear?

How do you dress differently or similarly to your family members or friends?

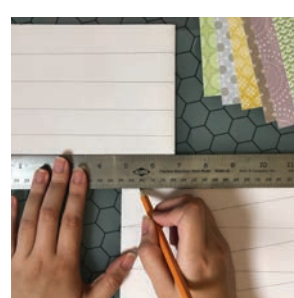


Grab these materials from your Kit!

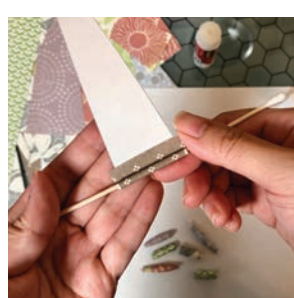
Pencil, copy paper, pattern paper, cotton swab, glue stick ruler, stretchy cord, pony beads

With permission from an adult, use these materials in your home or classroom:

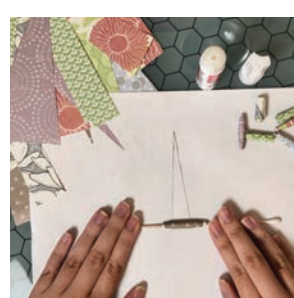
Scissors (optional)



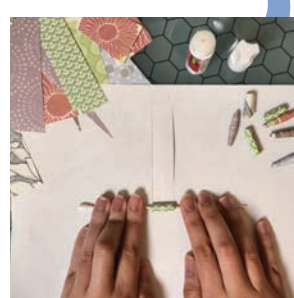
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STEP 1 Use a ruler and pencil to draw long rectangles and triangles on the solid colored sides of the pattern paper. Cut those long shapes out using scissors.

STEP 2 Place a sheet of white paper down to protect the flat surface you are working on. Take the middle of the cotton swab and place it at the wide end of a long triangle or rectangle. Fold the edge of the shape over the cotton swab. Crease the shape so it does not move. Rub a glue stick on the rest of the shape.

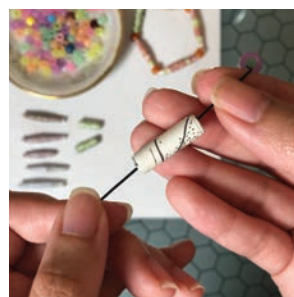
STEP 3 Use your fingertips to press down and roll the cotton swab, rolling up the paper into a bead as you go. Make sure the edges of the shape overlap to create your paper bead. Rub a glue stick over the paper bead to secure it.



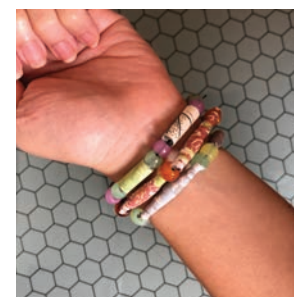
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STEP 4 Slide the paper bead off the cotton swab. Place the paper bead aside to dry. Repeat Steps 2-4 until you have enough beads to make your necklace or bracelet.

STEP 5 Measure the stretchy cord around your wrist to make a bracelet. Measure the stretchy cord around your head to make a necklace. Leave several inches to tie a knot.

STEP 6 Thread your paper beads and pony beads from the kit on the stretchy cord. When you finish threading, make a firm knot.

STEP 7 Stretch your finished piece of jewelry over your head or wrist to wear. Show off your new creation to a family member or friend!

#MyMuseumKit

Extension Activity

Using your extra supplies, make a card for someone who is important to you.

Write them a note, sign your name, and decorate the card with designs and pictures that this person likes. What are their favorite things? What do they care about?

In the space below, use the list of descriptive words you made when viewing *Depression Bread Line* to write a story from the perspective of one of the characters in the sculpture.

Extension Activity

Write a paragraph using personification.

That means giving human qualities to something not human. Become these beautiful beaded shoes. Using first person (I), write about a typical day of being a shoe. Describe where you go, how you feel and what it is like to be such a fancy shoe out in the world. Use your imagination! And use descriptive words!
