

3-D Contour Collage

This lesson plan addresses all the elements and principles of design. Paper is commonly thought of as a material strictly for use in two-dimensional art. However, it can be a very effective medium for sculpture, especially when various types of paper are combined as a collage. In this project, students create a three-dimensional “contour line drawing” out of soft, flexible sculpture wire, then cover it with decorative papers and tissue. The finished sculptures are lightweight and whimsical.

Note: instructions and materials based on a class of 25 students. Adjust as needed.

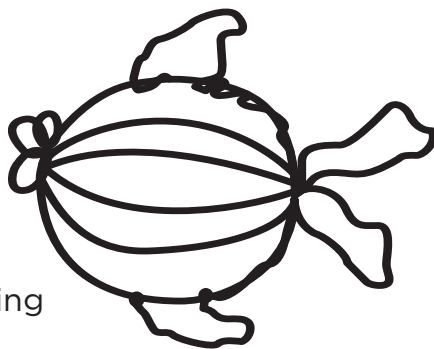


Grade Levels 5-12

Process

1. Have students practice contour line drawing exercises. Pretend the pencil line is one length of wire. Notice how the lines wrap around each other when direction changes. These overlapping areas are support for the sculpture shape.
2. Think about the figure as made from overlapping shapes such as three circles. Start with one piece of wire about 10 feet long. Twist each end and apply tape for safety. Make sure the wire wraps around the spots where each shape crosses another as they move away from each other.

Excess wire can be used for additional detail after the base shape is made. Do not cut the wire; wrap it around the base to the desired area (think of the contour drawing). Every time the wire travels



Materials

Thai Unryu Paper (11234-), or Thai Banana Paper (11224-), 25" x 37" sheets, select 10 sheets of assorted colors per class

Animal Skin Tissue Assortment, 20" x 30" sheets (11300-1003), package of 20 sheets in five patterns, need one package per class

Blick Art Tissue, 12" x 18" sheets (11308-1007), package of 100 sheets of assorted colors, need one package per class

KolorFast® Luster Metallics Tissue, 20" x 30" sheets (11306-9106), package of 14 sheets in seven colors, need one package per class

Snippy® Scissors, pointed (57040-2005), need one per student

Weldbond® Adhesive, 8-oz (23819-1105), share three bottles across the classroom

Sculpture Wire, 12-gauge (33401-1014), 350-ft coil, cut to 10-ft lengths for 35 per coil, need one length per student

Blick Scholastic Wonder-White Round, size 4 (05758-1004), need one per student

Process, continued

around the form the sculpture becomes stronger.

“Add-ons” can be made for a mouth, eyes and other fun parts. Make sure these are firmly attached by wrapping the wire to secure. Before adding paper, the wire can be bent to alter the shape. Ten feet of wire is usually enough for a 12" x 16" figure.

3. Select a variety of paper to cover the base of the fish. Cut the shape bigger to allow for flex in the wire and for gluing the paper edge around the wire. If the shape is not perfect, add other tissue to fill in. Collage techniques help to fix mistakes and add decoration.
4. Cut only one piece of paper at a time since the wire may move and change shape as the work develops. Use a nylon brush to apply the glue to the wire, then gently place paper onto it and lightly wrap it around the wire. Trim excess paper. Repeat to cover the whole sculpture.
5. “Add-ons” can be covered first and then attached to the figure. Wire wrap all areas.
6. After the whole sculpture is covered, adjust the shape if needed. Use scraps of tissue to design and embellish further.

Hints

- Use medium colored paper for the base
- The decorative papers are stronger than the tissue
- The tissue colors are bright but tend to have wrinkles

Options

Turn the sculpture into a lamp by cutting a hole in the bottom and inserting a battery-operated candle holder with no more than a 10-watt bulb. Keep bulb from direct contact with paper and never leave lamp unattended.

National Standards

Content Standard #1 — Understanding and applying media, techniques, and processes

5-8

Students intentionally take advantage of the qualities and characteristics of art media, techniques, and processes to enhance communication of their experiences and ideas

9-12

Students conceive and create works of visual art that demonstrate an understanding of how the communication of their ideas relates to the media, techniques, and processes they use