

Gel-ly Bowls

Dimensional Acrylic Collage

Acrylic mediums push the limit as to what can be accomplished in paintings today. They also provide intriguing new ways to assemble collage. In this lesson plan, wire mesh and various materials are encased in acrylic gel medium and allowed to dry. The finished form can be easily manipulated into a bowl shape.

This lesson plan can address multiple teaching objectives by determining what images and materials are used to create the collage-style structure of the bowl. Use Acrylic paint and more acrylic mediums to develop color, texture and design. Envelope photocopies, images, music, text, colorful papers and many different objects inside the transparent gel to express various ideas related to history, social issues or literature.

Finished pieces can hold water (or float!), but should not come in contact with food items.

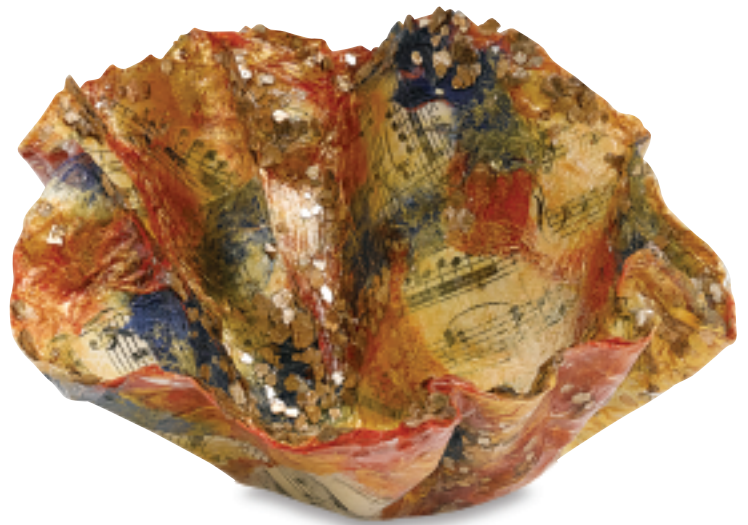
Grade Levels 5-12

Preparation

1. Cut Wireform into 6" diameter circles. If working with younger ages, you may want to have them put on gloves or cut it for them, because the wire edges are a little sharp.
2. Cut non-stick paper into 8" squares.

Process

1. Use masking tape on all sides of the non-stick paper to secure it to the rigid surface. Smooth it with your hands to make it as flat as possible.
2. Lightly draw a 7" diameter circle on the paper, using a compass or roughly sketching 1/2" from the edge of the wire circle (perfection is not a requirement!)



Above: Gel-ly Bowl formed with a collage of sheet music, unryu paper, and Golden Gold Mica Flake Gel



Left: Gel-ly Bowl formed and painted with Golden Fluid Acrylic Colors

Materials

Amaco® Wireform Diamond Mesh (33408-2850), cut to 6-8" diameter circles

Golden Regular Gel Medium, Gloss (00628-1087). Need approximately 1.5-oz per piece

Non-stick paper, suggest:

Dry Mount Release Paper (23401-1026);

Parchment paper for baking (found in supermarkets - will wrinkle slightly); or release papers saved from laminating sheets, iron-on adhesive or contact shelf paper (use glossy, unprinted side)

Rigid surface, suggest Foamboard (13209-1023), plastic or metal tray,

Golden Fluid Acrylic Colors (00638-), assorted colors

Blick Art Tissue (11308-), assorted colors

Optional Materials:

Assorted papers, photos, text, etc, for collage

Process, continued

3. Apply a generous coat of gel medium to the circle. Don't worry about getting a smooth surface or a precise edge. The gel against the paper surface will be the outside of the bowl, so it will be smooth. Textures made with the gel enhance the artwork and brushstrokes make a great deckled edge. Allow to dry.
4. Create artwork in reverse - the first colors applied will face outside. Ideas:
 - a) Paint an image or design with acrylics. Colors may be mixed with the gel medium to increase transparency, if desired.
 - b) Use the gel medium as you would a glue to create a collage using tissue papers, decorative papers, photos, text, drawings, etc. Brush the front side of the collage paper with gel and place face down on dried gel surface. Apply more gel to the back side so that it lays flat.

5. Place the wire circle over the artwork. Coat the wire circle with gel medium and allow it to dry, see inset photo at right. Now, create artwork for the other side of the bowl using paint or collage as suggested in step 4. This will be the final layer, so 3-dimensional "found" objects can be embedded in the paint or gel. Try adding beads, shells, dried flowers or leaves, pebbles, jewelry parts, etc.



6. Allow the last layer to dry completely. Gel will be milky white when wet, so all areas should look clear. Placing in front of a fan or in a well-ventilated area will decrease dry time. Leave the irregular brush edges as they are or use scissors to trim them at the pencil line. Gently pull the entire piece away from the silicone paper and bend it into a bowl shape.

Options:

The Wireform can be cut in shapes other than circles, then bent to form almost any design, see example, at right.



Gel-ly Bowl formed with Blick Tissue Paper collage, Golden Fluid Acrylic paint and glass globes for feet

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 apply media, techniques, and processes with sufficient skill, confidence, and sensitivity that their intentions are carried out in their artworks

Content Standard #2 — Using knowledge of structures and functions

5-8

Students select and use the qualities of structures and functions of art to improve communication of their ideas

9-12

Students evaluate the effectiveness of artworks in terms of organizational structures and functions

Content Standard #3 — Choosing and evaluating a range of subject matter, symbols, and ideas

5-8

Students integrate visual, spatial, and temporal concepts with content to communicate intended meaning in their artworks

9-12

Students reflect on how artworks differ visually, spatially, temporally, and functionally, and describe how these are related to history and culture