

## Paper Sculpture Challenge!

### Lesson Description

Explore with 2-dimensional shapes (both geometric and organic shapes) and sculpture techniques to create a 3-dimensional artwork.

### Learning Objectives

- Discuss and use geometric and organic shapes.
- Use of basic slot techniques.
- Use basic 2-dimensional shapes to create a 3-dimensional artwork.

### Artful Discussion

Take a moment to observe this artwork and describe what you see:

- What kind of shapes do you see? Does the artist use geometric or organic shapes?
- Describe the artist's use of color. What colors have been used?
- Is the composition balanced?
- What words would you use to describe the artwork?

### Artwork

Robert Hudson, *Outrigger*, 1983-1984. Enamel on steel, cast iron and antlers, Crocker Art Museum Purchase, with funds from McCuen & Steele, Inc.



### Background Information

Robert Hudson studied at San Francisco during the early 1960's, a period when the second wave of Abstract Expressionism and Bay Area Figuration dominated the curriculum. In his work, Hudson adds found objects, such as the distinctive antlers, creating seemingly irrational sculptures. Symmetry is avoided, and the sense of instability intentional.

### Other Links

Visit our website at [crockerart.org](http://crockerart.org) to view other works of art and get inspiration for your project.

Smithsonian American Art Museum: <https://americanart.si.edu/artist/robert-hudson-2341>

Other Artworks: <https://www.artsy.net/artist/robert-hudson>

### Art Materials

You'll need the following material for this project:

- Colored Cardstock Paper
- Scissors

(No worries if you don't have card stock paper! You may use cardboard found in your pantry (cereal or granola boxes) or any thick paper material for this project. You may color in you shapes with other materials (markers, crayons, etc.))

### Note

This lesson is about exploring art concepts, practicing with art materials, and working out our creative muscles. While we have outlined steps for you to follow to complete the project, keep in mind that these

lessons are designed to foster creativity and critical thinking, so the end result will look a little different for everyone. We encourage parents to do the project with their children and explore new concepts!

### **Procedure**

Children will need a small work surface, like a desk or a spot at the kitchen table, for this project. We encourage students to save and/or use up scraps for this project. (To view digital steps, go to the next page.)

1. Gather a few sheets of colored construction papers (preferably, thick card stock paper) and scissors.
2. Using a pair of scissors, cut a number of shapes out. Explore making geometric shapes: squares, triangles, rectangles, circles, ovals, pentagon, etc. and organic shapes: these shapes look irregular or asymmetrical. They tend to have a curvy flow to them.
3. After you cut out a couple of geometric and organic shapes, add slits/slots. Using your scissors, cut 2 to 3 slits/slots around the shape. A slit/slot is 2 vertical lines cut right next to each other that creates a small opening (the slit/slot is the size of the side of a nickel.)
4. Put your shapes together by joining the slits/slots together to create a free standing sculpture. Keep in mind movement and balance when making your sculpture.

### **Conclusion**

Take some time to clean up your space, leaving only your sculpture. You may throw away your scraps or save them for another project. Now, let's take a moment to observe the work and review the following questions:

- What kind of shapes do you see? Did you use geometric or organic shapes? Both?
- Describe your use of color. What colors did you use? Why?
- What do you like or dislike about the work? Why?
- Compare your artwork to Robert Hudson's piece, *Outrigger*.

### **Note**

This project would look great on a shelf or you can always take your project apart and rebuild it later! We encourage parents and children to visit the Crocker Art Museum to view Robert Hudson's sculpture and many other works of art!

### **Vocabulary**

Review the following art terms:

- **Sculpture:** A three-dimensional artwork. A wide variety of materials may be worked by removal such as carving, assembled by welding or modelling, or molded/castes.
- **Geometric:** Characterized by or decorated with regular lines and shapes. ex.) squares, rectangles, squares, octagons, etc.
- **Organic:** Irregular or asymmetrical in appearance and tend to have curvy flow to them. ex.) clouds, leaves, flowers, blobs, etc.
- **Symmetrical:** Refers to balance that is achieved by arranging elements on either side of the center of a composition in an equally weighted manner.
- **Asymmetrical:** Refers to balance that is unequal visual weight on each side of the composition.

### **Digital Steps**

