

# Art Activity

## Geometric Forms: Aaron Curry Sculpture



### Stacked cardboard forms and bright color pops

Sculpture is composed of three main elements: form, color, and space. Each sculptor considers these elements and interprets them in their own way. Sculptures can be any shape, any combination of colors, and take up space through a wide range of sizes.

A good example of this is artist Aaron Curry who creates colorful installations and sculptures from his paintings and drawings. His installation *HEADROOM* is a playful exploration of popular art movements like Cubism, Abstract Expressionism, and a nod to modernist works of art by Alexander Calder and Pablo Picasso, who are represented in the McNay's collection. This activity shows how Curry's installation transforms shape and color into both flat and 3D spaces. See other examples of geometric sculpture from the McNay's collection at the end of this lesson.



As an artist, Aaron Curry makes sculptures and paintings that have a direct connection to modernism and incorporates themes of pop culture, science fiction, video games, and cartoons. He uses different materials that take up visual space in interesting and unique ways.

Aaron Curry, *Line Mind Body Hottie*, 2019. Silkscreen and spray paint on wood. Courtesy of the artist; David Kordansky Gallery, Los Angeles; and Michael Werner Gallery, New York and London.

## Suggested materials:

- Cardboard (anything recycled, especially if has some color to it)
- Markers, paint, crayons
- Scissors or cutting tool (Xacto knife, utility knife)
- Ruler or straight edge
- Pencil or pen
- White paint or spray paint, optional (used to prime the dark surface of cardboard)

## Instructions:

1. **Prime the cardboard.** The brown surface is a little dark so painting or coating it with white will help prime it for bright colors. This example uses white spray paint, but you could easily use any paint or even glue some white paper to the surface.

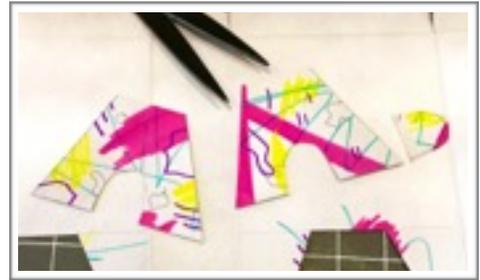


2. **Color the cardboard.** Use your coloring materials to create designs on the primed cardboard.

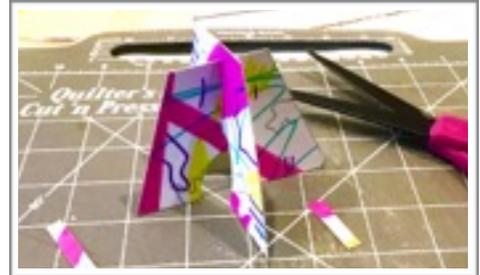


3. **Create the base** of the sculpture. The shape here is important because it needs to support the other stacked pieces. Draw the base shape you want times two. This will be the largest

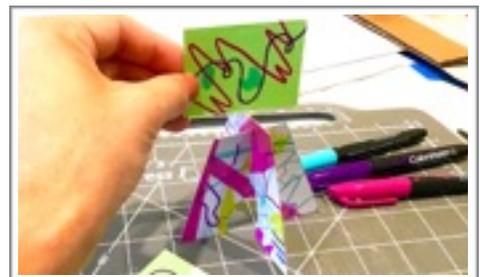
part of the sculpture. This example uses two stacked "A" shapes connected and secured through a cut slit at the center of one piece. Consider how the two pieces will fit together to make a solid base.



4. **Cut it out and stack it.** Cut out the base pieces and cut a thin slit in the center of one piece being careful not to cut all the way across. Stack the cut piece over the second one and fit inside the cut slit to secure. Trim any excess to make it stand straight and secure.

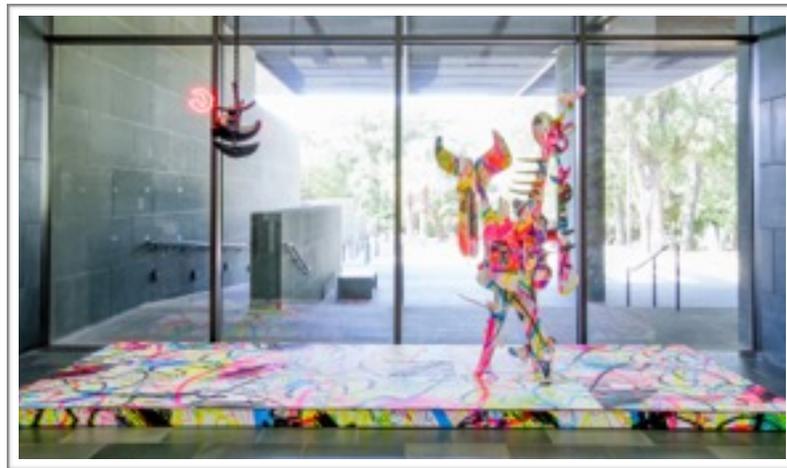
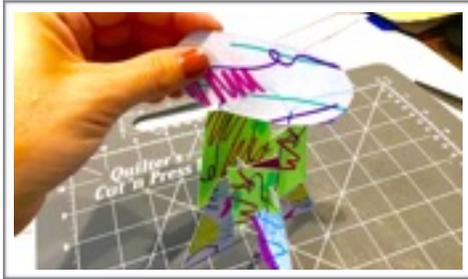


5. **Second tier.** Choose some cardboard piece to be the second tier to stack. These pieces should be smaller than the base shapes. Color and decorate with designs, draw & cut out the shapes, and determine where to cut small slits to stack on the base pieces.



6. **Final tier.** The third tier can be smaller than the second or the same size. The example here uses one large piece that connects the two

pieces in the second tier. Color, cut, and stack the final piece.



Aaron Curry, *HEADROOM* (detail), 2019, McNay Art Museum.

**Take it further.** With any extra cardboard or decorated paper, create a backdrop and/ or decorative base for your new sculpture just like Aaron Curry. Find a prominent place in the house to display your new art work!