

Art Making Activity

Re-used and Recycled Mediums



 Reduce, reuse, recycle! Explore 3D sculpture with recyclable materials in your own home and give your used items new life. Create your own environmentally friendly artwork, inspired by works in the McNay's collection.



Chakaia Booker (Shahk-EYE-uh BOOK-uhr) is an American artist born in Newark, New Jersey. She considers herself a narrative, environmental artist. In *Position Preferred*, she uses reclaimed car tires to create an abstract sculpture composed of organic and geometric shapes. Booker's material is a nod to the waste that humans create and the lasting effect of these materials on the environment. By reusing items that are not only affordable, but easy to come by, she creates new artworks while also being an environmental steward.

Chakaia Booker, *Position Preferred*, 2006. Rubber and wood. Collection of the McNay Art Museum, Museum purchase with funds from the McNay Contemporary Collectors Forum. © Chakaia Booker

Suggested materials:

- Cardboard
- Scissors OR a box cutter if you are 12 years or older, or have the help of an adult
- Acrylic paint
- Hot glue, masking tape, or any strong adhesive you may have at home
- Paint brush
- Paint markers, crayons, or pastels

Instructions

1. Sketch onto some scrap paper the shape you want to make your sculpture into, so that you can reference it later. It can be a loose sketch or a detailed sketch.



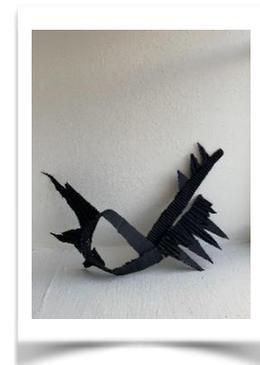
2. Cut various shapes from your cardboard that you want to use in your sculpture, in multiple different sizes so that you have options. I used a box-cutter to create sharper lines by scoring a line in the cardboard, and then separating it at the score.



3. Peel off the top layer of your cardboard to expose the corrugated interior, and use these pieces if you want to add more texture to your sculpture.



4. Start with a larger piece of cardboard to support the rest of your shape. Then start gluing your pieces on according to your sketch or what you think might achieve the look you are aiming for.
5. Use your adhesive to bind your pieces together. I used hot glue, because it was the most effective for holding the cardboard together. Let your adhesive dry.
6. Leave your material as-is, or paint your sculpture for a finishing touch!



7. Recycle or reuse whatever does not end up on your sculpture!

Did you Know?

- It takes 50-80 years for a car tire to break down naturally, whereas it takes 3 months for cardboard.
- Approximately 1 billion car tires are produced globally each year.
- Around 290 million tires are disposed of each year.
- Tires can be turned into rubber mulch to be used for: garden beds, playground surfaces, synthetic football turf, and even rubberized asphalt for roads!