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ARTventures ... at home!

Colorful Cardboard Collage

Create a dimensional collage inspired by DAI
Special Exhibition, *Black Heritage Through Visual Rhythms*

Willis Bing Davis (American, born 1937), *Ancestral Spirit Dance #590,* 2019, oil pastel on paper. Courtesy of the artist.

Materials Needed

- 5: 9x12" cardboard sheets
- glue stick or bottle glue
- acrylic paint, primary colors
- sponge brushes
- paint tray or paper plate
- paper towels
- scissors
- pencil

Optional

- acrylic paint, secondary colors, black, white
- ruler
- hair dryer
- hot glue gun
- glue sticks

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Step 1

Think of shapes and patterns that interest you. Draw a list, then select the shapes and patterns that most to use in the final project.

Helpful hint: experiment with the shapes and patterns on the list to combine and create new shapes and patterns as desired.
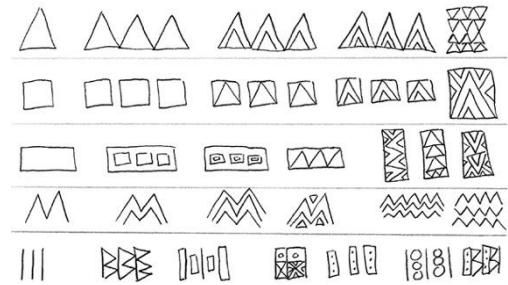
Step 2

Think of 4 colors to use for the patterns in your collage, including the color for the background. Select 4 sheets of cardboard and paint each sheet a different color (ex: 1 blue sheet, 1 green sheet, etc.). Allow all sheets to fully dry. Leave an extra cardboard sheet blank for later use. Use paint colors directly from the tubes or mix colors to create custom color options as desired.
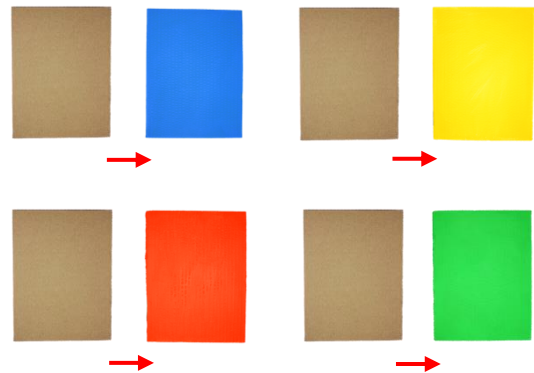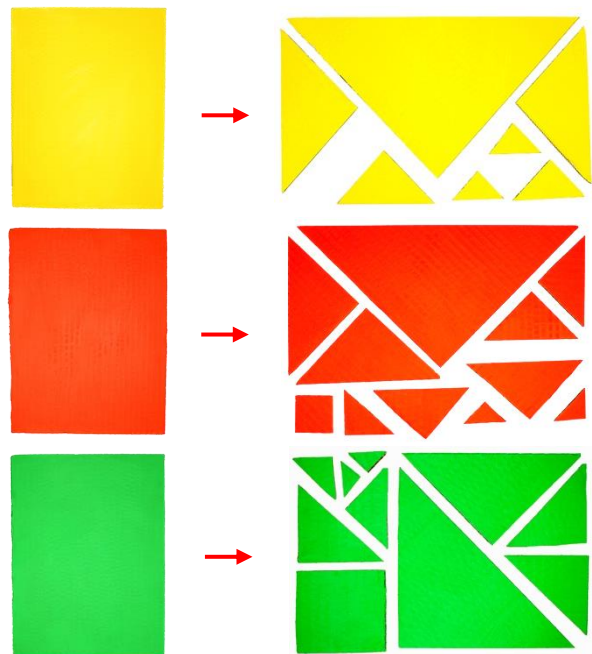
Helpful hint: paint with sponge brush in several thin, crisscrossing layers for smoothest application of paint. Use hair dryer to speed drying process if needed.

Note: for best color vibrancy, an undercoating of white onto cardboard sheets may be necessary before painting bright or lighter colors (ex: yellow, orange, sky blue, etc.).

Step 3

Cut out pattern shapes (ex: square, triangle, rectangle) with scissors from 3 of the 4 painted sheets. Save background color sheet and all scraps for later use.

Note: for best pattern results**,** create numerous shapes identical in size, color, and shape (ex: triangles that are all yellow, equilateral, and 2" wide or red squares that are all 4" wide, etc.). This allows for easy repetition. Shapes of similar sizes and style can also be cut from several different color sheets if desired.

Helpful hint: use unpainted cardboard sheet to create shape templates. Trace around template with pencil and repeat tracings to create identical shapes as desired.
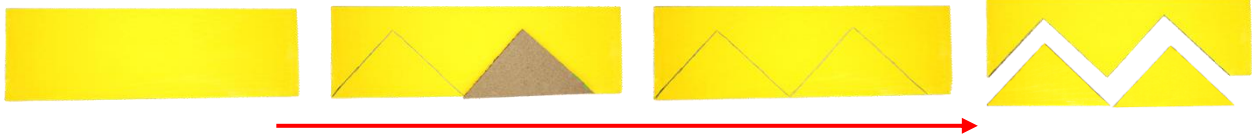
Note: shape templates can also later be painted additional colors or values (ex: painted black, dark blue, light blue, etc.) for use in final collage if desired.


Step 4

Arrange cut out shapes onto background and experiment with different patterns and designs for the finalized artwork. Layer and stack shapes to create extra dimension and detail as desired. Cut and paint scrap pieces for extra shapes if desired.

Helpful hint: when layering, start with largest shapes first and stack smaller shapes on top.

Helpful hint: create negative shapes with the background color to further add to the patterns and design of the finalized artwork.
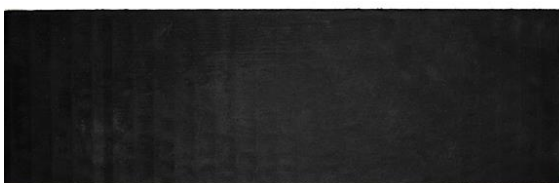
background   negative shape

Helpful hint: take photos of each arrangement as reference for later when selecting and assembling final artwork.

Note: background sheet can be cut to a specific size or shape for better composition and arrangement possibilities if desired (ex: cut in half, cut to square shape, etc.).

Step 5

Glue all pieces onto the background color sheet in the final arrangement desired.

Helpful hint: apply glue to both pieces and background for best adhesion. Use hot glue for most durable, permanent adhesion.

Note: hot glue should only be used with proper supervision and handled with care.

Resources

See more of Willis "Bing" Davis's artwork

DAI Special Exhibition: *Black Heritage Through Visual Rhythms*

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... at home!

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