

in the STUDIO THEME Stuck at Home

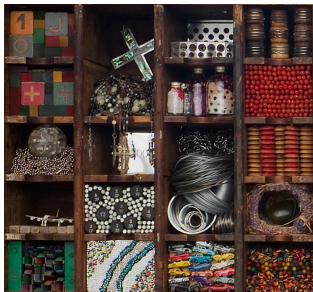


On the audio tour, we learned that found objects can become fine art!

What found objects did you find in the artworks on our tour?

In the STUDIO today, we are going to explore sculpture and assemblage.

ASSEMBLAGE is an artistic composition made from scraps, junk, odds & ends and such, including paper, metal, or boxes & bottles.



La Wilson is a local woman, from Hudson, who started making art in 1946 at a weekly painting class at the Akron Art Institute (now Akron Art Museum) and soon discovered her own way of working. About her process, Wilson describes, “First I collect—anything that appeals, for whatever reasons. Then I start putting things together, usually in a box and what often happens is that these everyday mundane *boring* things change their essential nature when juxtaposed *placed* in unexpected ways with other material.”

Lee Bontecou was affected by World War II and has memories of her mother wiring submarine parts in a factory during the war. These early experiences awakened a lifelong political awareness in Bontecou that fueled the intensity of much of her work. “*I was angry.*” Her persistent angry feelings [horrors of war, prisons, negativity] are expressed in Prisons, a series of small “Untitled” rectangular metal works made in the early 1960s. Bontecou combines the aggressive & the beautiful—in her words, “the balance of what we are up to.”



Assemblage Artists:

- . collect objects they enjoy or want to explore
- . carefully compose *arrange* objects into groups or patterns
- . consider everyday objects in a new way when placed unexpectedly next to others
- . communicate personal emotion, social critique, or political awareness

Now let's get in the STUDIO & assemble some Art!





ASSEMBLAGE ARTISTS *collect objects they enjoy or want to explore & carefully arrange the objects into groups or patterns.*

Artist Tony Feher was a Contemporary sculptor who used found, everyday objects such as water bottles to create installations. He carefully arranged everyday objects that were just barely altered. His work has been referred to as “Dollar Store aesthetic *beauty*”.



CONTEMPORARY ART dates from 1960s to today.

Do you have empty water bottles in the recycling bin, or laying around the house?

In the STUDIO, let's arrange water bottles into artistic installations!

SUPPLIES

at least 3 **water bottles** {odd numbers are best for design: 3, 5, 7, 9...}

water, a measuring cup, & a ruler

1 **food color or kool-aid-style powder drink mix** {kindly ask an adult to help}

STEPS

remove any paper labels from each water bottle

fill each water bottle with the **same amount** of water {use measuring cup}

to each water bottle, add a **different amount** of food color/drink mix

carefully screw the lid on top of each colorful water bottle

find an interesting/unusual place in your house to install your artwork

arrange the bottles **in a row**, use a ruler to space each one exactly the same

SUGGESTIONS

SHOW an adult your art installation & TELL them about assemblage art

DRINK your ART!

SHARE a bottle with someone who is thirsty!





ASSEMBLAGE ARTISTS *consider everyday objects in a new way when placed unexpectedly next to other objects.*

Artist Donald Lipski has long favored contrasting different types of materials. For *Untitled #64*, he combined stiff brush handles with pliant rubber-*elegant & amusing!* Lipski's unusual visual metaphors **symbols** are informed by Surrealism.



Man Ray, was an American pioneer of Surrealism. He created *Indestructible Object* in 1923, a metronome with a photograph of an eye attached. It is one of the most recognized **ready-mades** in history. Man Ray reflected, "*A painter needs an audience, so I put the photo of an eye on the metronome's arm to create the illusion of being watched.*"

SURREALISM is a Modern Art (1860-1960) movement in which artists tried to interpret the workings of the unconscious mind, as in dreams. Surrealism is characterized by an irrational, fantastic arrangement of material.

Ready to bring 2 contrasting objects together to make a Surrealist artwork?

In the STUDIO, let's make ready-mades like Man Ray!

SUPPLIES

1 everyday object in your house
magazines {kindly ask permission to cut these}
scissors & tape . paper & pencil

STEPS

consider what it **feels** like to be stuck at home
find a picture of something that symbolizes **represents** that feeling & cut it out
tape that picture to your contrasting **opposite** everyday object
consider **an unusual title**. write it on paper. cut & tape it to your ready-made

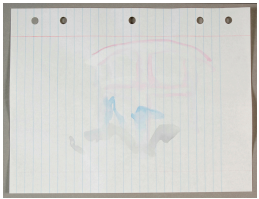
SUGGESTIONS

share **a weird dream** you've had, symbolized by the objects you pair together





ASSEMBLAGE ARTISTS *communicate emotion, social, or political awareness.*



Richard Tuttle's intimate, fragile drawings on loose leaf notebook paper activate space with the slightest of marks. As the artist states, "*I've always tried to make everything—absolutely everything—count.*" By reorienting the paper with its holes on top, Tuttle counters common associations with the material & allows the pattern of vertical lines to create a subtle rhythm over which he arranges vivid pulses of color.

Louise Nevelson, like other Abstract Expressionist artists, worked without preliminary drawings: she allowed the abstract shapes to dictate the form of her box-shaped compositions. A riotous cacophony of oppositions was tamed by the artist into a harmonious composition, by matte black paint. Nevelson, a pioneer, recycled society's discards, creating sculptures that challenged the idea of what was considered fine art in her day & prefigured the environmental art of the 1960s



Do you have a stack of Amazon boxes, empty toilet paper tubes, & other discarded materials around the house to elevate into an abstract assemblage?

In the STUDIO, let's create a Nevelson-inspired box composition!

SUPPLIES

discarded boxes, toilet paper tubes, & other discards found at home
scissors & duct tape or other adhesives
1 can of matte {dull & flat; without a shine} black spray paint

STEPS

stuck at home, **consider your favorite room**
recreate that space **abstractly, assembling** discarded elements
adhere the **parts into a whole** composition. **TAKE OUTSIDE!** spray paint

SUGGESTIONS

like Tuttle's motivation, let absolutely everything in your assemblage count!
no spray paint? assemble your space with objects from around the house

