

MIXED MEDIA

Materials List:

Cardboard to make a mixed media base: We use chipboard or cardboard cut from boxes for the base of our sculpture but any wood or thick cardboard will do.

Recyclables and other materials for the sculptures: Wood scraps, old cartons or boxes, wire, fabric, beads, buttons, and paper are all excellent materials to use in a mixed media sculpture. Before you throw something out, ask yourself – can I use this as an art material?

Natural materials: Any pebbles or twigs you collect from outdoors will work for your mixed media project.

Glue: Tacky glue is effective because it is very sticky. School glue (such as Elmer's) will work on many materials, especially paper and cardboard. Low temperature glue guns are great and bond materials quickly and securely; however, these require adult supervision.

Masking Tape: Masking tape is a good alternative to glue.

Tips for working with mixed media:

- Google Jessica Stockholder, Sarah Sze, and Carol Bove for examples of contemporary mixed media artists. Look up other artists who are currently showing their work in New York galleries.
- When creating mixed media sculpture, make sure that you use a strong, solid material for your base, such as a 1x1 inch square piece of cardboard.
- If using school or tacky glue, you may need to hold the materials in place for a few minutes while the glue sets.
- If you are not happy with your first attempt, don't worry, you can recycle most of the materials and start over!

Explorations:

- 1.) Choose five objects or materials you would like to use. How would you like to combine them? Before you glue or tape the materials, try arranging them in a few different ways to explore what balances and what you like.
- 2.) Display your sculpture. Will the artwork be installed outside or inside? On the ground or on a pedestal? Leaning against the wall or standing upright?
- 3.) Be sure to take pictures of your sculpture. It's important to document your work, especially if your sculpture is fragile and can be easily damaged. Keep in mind that photography is another form of art.

“Everything was sculpture. Any material, any idea without hindrance born into space, I considered sculpture. I worked with driftwood, bones, paper, strings, cloth, shell, wire, wood, and plastics . . .”

– Isamu Noguchi