

Newark Community Art Club with Elaine Winter

Session 11: Exploring Materials 1 – 2D to 3D

Materials needed:

Pencil,

Scissors

Materials that you might have in your house and in particular either old newspaper or scrap paper

Glue stick

Tape such as sellotape or masking tape if you have it

Introduction: Many artists have made work that has been directed to some extent by what they could do at the time due to constrictions such as lack of budget/limited space/limited time. Examples of this include artists who have used themselves as a model because they couldn't afford to hire a model, and artists who have used unconventional materials to save money. This exercise is designed to get us away from thinking only of using the usual materials when we come to make art and also make us think about re-evaluating what we can do with the resources we have around us.

Activity 1: Find some old newspaper or a scrap paper, ideally quite a few sheets. Now take a sheet of the paper you have to hand and try changing its form. Here's some ideas to get you started but don't stop at these ones, keep going and try ideas of your own.

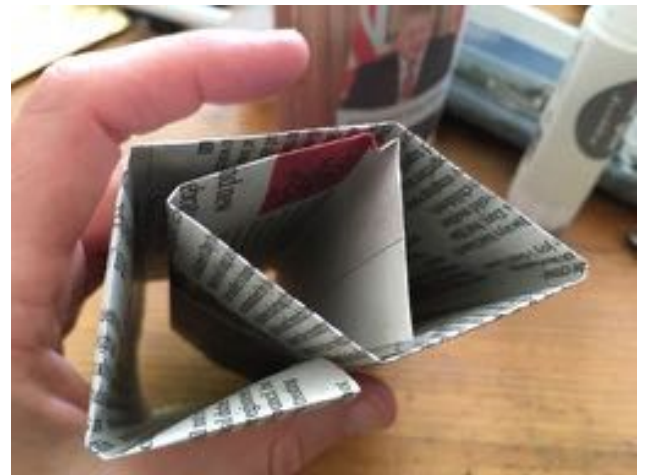
Paper Stick: Rolling a sheet around a pencil to make a strong and long paper 'stick'. Start on the corner with your pencil across the point of the corner and roll up fairly tightly but all the time making sure you keep one end of your pencil accessible so that it doesn't disappear into the paper stick tube and is irretrievable. When you get to the end and the furthest away corner then use a dab of glue stick on that corner to secure it.



Paper Roll: Fold the sheet over a couple of times to make the paper stronger then roll it up on itself to make a cylinder, again secure it with glue from the glue stick. Try also to make a paper cone.



Geometric: Take a piece of paper and fold it in on itself a few times to make it thicker and more structural and make a longish and thickish strip then fold over this time in the opposite direction, creasing it sharply and then try different geometric formations. When you land on one that you like fix it with tape.



Curling Paper: Most paper can be curled in the same way that curling ribbon works. So cut yourself a thin strip of paper and using fairly blunt safety scissors, hold the paper strip between your finger and the scissors blade and pull the paper strip through fairly quickly and it should curl. If you are using newspaper be aware that it is weaker than other papers so might tear but you can do it if you take it easy.



Concertina folding: take a sheet of paper and fold perhaps 1cm depth at a time and between each fold turn the paper over so that you make a concertina effect when you fold it. Look at the final concertina folded piece of paper and think about how you could use it. It could make a fan shape or...something else?



Activity 2: Look at the paper forms you have made and arrange them. You have options now. If you feel like drawing then arrange them and draw them. You could treat them like a simple still life or you could arrange them like they are sculptures in a sculpture park and when you draw make them look like monumental with heavy shading and add items for scale like trees or buildings.

Alternatively if you feel inspired by the 3D making then carry on with it, keep going and try combining some of the paper forms and make your own unique sculpture. Just using paper need not be a limiting factor and many sculptors make small models



called maquettes from paper and card before they go on to make it at the final scale with different materials.

Activity 3: Try doing the same process but with a different material. Try something with very different qualities such as aluminium foil. Working with different materials gives you experiences of how different materials work and can only help you as an artist as you go forward. Keep going!