

Exploring Shapes and Abstraction

This lesson will guide you on how to use cut paper to create your own collage with abstract shapes inspired by Patrick Henry Bruce's *Peinture/Nature Morte (Painting/Still Life)*.

Time: 30 minutes

Difficulty level: Easy

Messy level: Low



Investigate the Work of Art!

1. What shapes do you recognize in this painting?
2. How do the shapes touch or overlap?
Do some stand alone?
3. What color shapes do you see?
What mood or feeling do the colors create?

To view a hi-res image of the work, visit the [MFAH Collection online database](#).

Let's Make Some Art!

Gather These Art Materials

- Large piece of black or white paper for background
- Construction paper of all colors
- Scissors
- Glue stick
- Pencil

Step-by-Step Artist Instructions

1. Find a clear spot at home where you can make art and get a little messy.
2. Find a large piece of black or white paper to use as a background. Sturdy paper like cardstock or construction paper will work best.
3. On the colored construction paper, draw shapes of different sizes and then cut them out.
4. Also on the colored construction paper, use scissors and imagination to cut out freeform shapes.
5. Keep in mind the different colors and sizes you can create. The more variety in shape and size, the more exciting your work will be!
6. Once you are finished creating your shapes, spread them out onto your background and move them around to see how they look best. Don't be afraid to overlap!
7. Glue your shapes down onto the background.

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Patrick Henry Bruce, *Peinture/Nature Morte*, 1920–21, oil on canvas, the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, museum purchase funded by The Brown Foundation, Inc., 78.182.