

Exploring Positive and Negative Space and Making Your Own Tree

This lesson will guide you to create a collage tree, inspired by Jennifer Steinkamp's video projection *Mike Kelley, 14*, using old magazines or scrap paper from around your home.

Time: 30 minutes

Difficulty level: Moderate

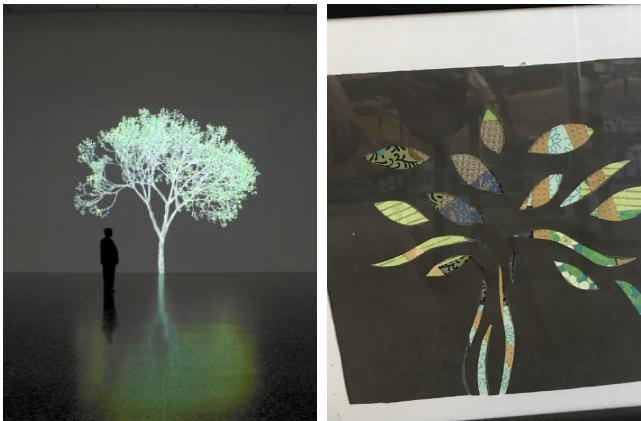
Messy level: Moderate



Investigate the Work of Art!

1. This tree is made of light projected onto a dark surface. Notice how the colored lights create the positive space, and the dark wall creates the negative space.
2. This artwork is a video projection of a tree. The size of the tree can change depending on where the video is projected. Where would you want to project this video?
3. The tree in this video projection passes from summer, to autumn, to winter, to spring, then starts the cycle again. What happens to trees during each of the four seasons?

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



Let's Make Some Art!

Gather These Art Materials

- One black sheet of paper
- Another sheet of paper, any color, the same size as the black sheet
- Magazines, books, or scraps of colored paper
- Scissors
- Glue stick

Step-by-Step Artist Instructions

1. Find a clear spot at home where you can make art and get a little messy.
2. Look through old magazines and books. Cut or tear out any pages or images that have a lot of green.
3. Collage your green scraps onto the non-black sheet of paper, making sure to fill the space completely. Set aside to dry.
4. On the black sheet of paper, use a pencil to draw the design of a simple tree.
5. Cut out a stencil of the tree. To do this, fold the piece of paper at each limb or leaf of the tree design. Then use scissors to cut away the parts of the tree. Adults can use an X-Acto knife.
6. Glue the black paper over the collaged paper. The collage is now seen through the openings in the black stencil.
7. Repeat this project again using different colors to represent the different seasons.

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Jennifer Steinkamp, *Mike Kelley, 14*, 2007–2008, video projection, the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, museum purchase funded by Isabel B. Wilson and The Brown Foundation, Inc., 2011.1020.