

Make a Paper Bench!

Art Lesson for Design Thinking: Art, Architecture, and Engineering Tour

Grades 6-8

Bench sculptures based on the style of the artistic benches in the NBMAA's collection.



Materials:

- Cardboard or any heavier paper (or cut an empty box).
- Pencils
- Markers and/or crayons
- Glue, glue sticks and/or tape
- Scissors
- Varying supplies such as recyclable materials, popsicle sticks, googly eyes, sequins, pipe cleaners, yarns, ribbons, construction paper, wrapping paper, tissue paper, twigs, etc.



Connecticut State Art Standards: 6th-8th grade

VA:Cr2.1.6a Demonstrate openness in trying new ideas, materials, methods, and approaches in making works of art and design.

VA:Cr2.1.7a Demonstrate persistence in developing skills with various materials, methods, and approaches in creating works of art or design.

VA:Cr2.1.8a Demonstrate willingness to experiment, innovate, and take risks to pursue ideas, forms, and meanings that emerge in the process of art-making or designing.

VA:Pr6.1.6a Assess, explain, and provide evidence of how museums or other venues reflect history and values of a community.

VA:Pr6.1.7a Compare and contrast viewing and experiencing collections and exhibitions in different venues.

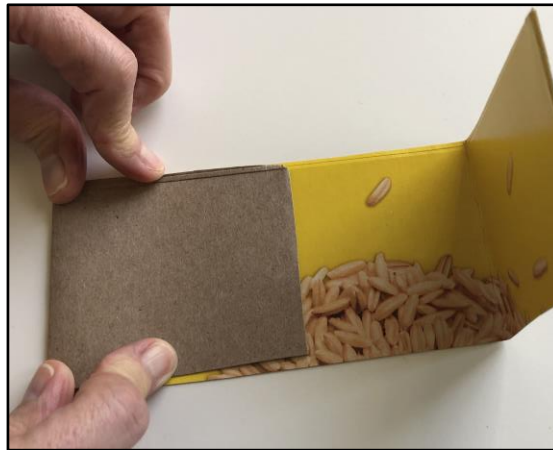
VA:Pr6.1.8a Analyze why and how an exhibition or collection may influence ideas, beliefs, and experiences.

VA:Cr3:1:6a Design or redesign objects, places, or systems that meet the identified needs of diverse users.

VA:Cr2.3.7a Apply visual organizational strategies to design and produce a work of art, design, or media that clearly communicates information or ideas.

VA:Cr2.3.8a Select, organize, and design images and words to make visually clear and compelling presentations.

- 1) First draw a line approximately 2" from the edge of the cardboard or heavy paper.
- 2) Cut out on the line you just drew to create a strip.
- 3) Fold each end down 1-2 inches so the strip can stand on its own. This creates your bench.





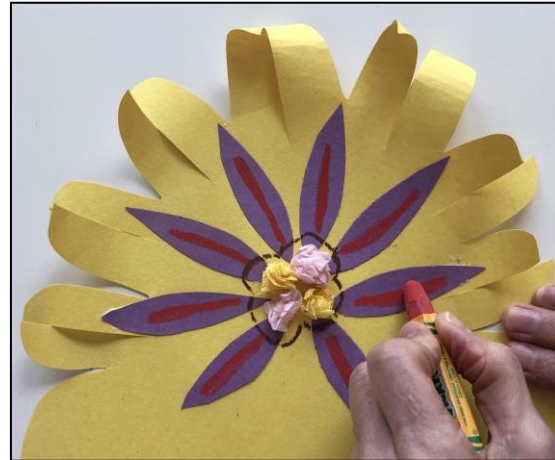
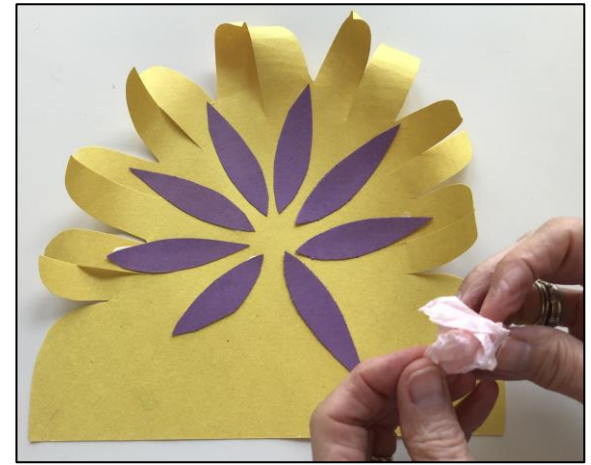
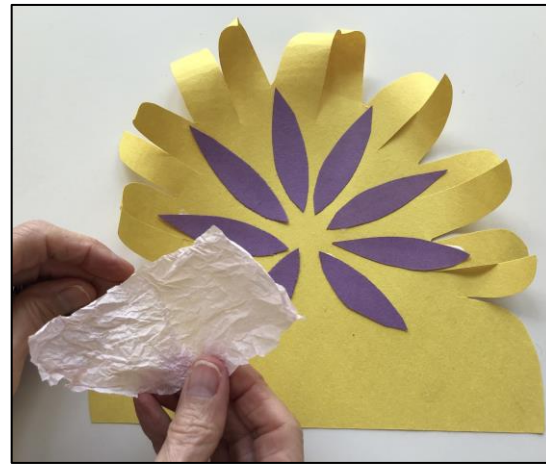
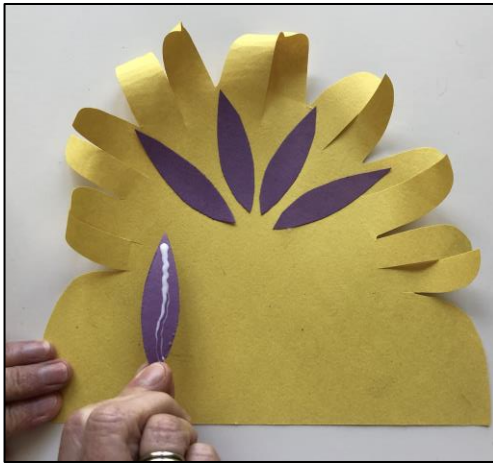
The Conservatory

Artist: Nellie Littlehale Umstaetter
Murphy, 1867-1941

Medium: Watercolor and graphite
on board.

4) Create a theme for your bench. This one is going to be a flower bench which is based on a watercolor from the NBMAA collection.

5) Decorate and color your bench but remember to leave at least one spot where someone would be able to sit.

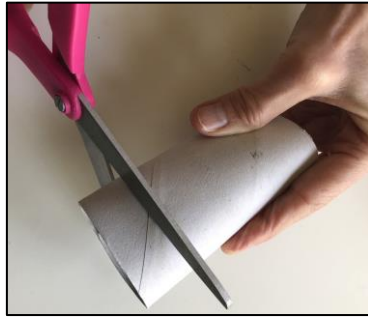


6) You can make a back to your bench. This will be the back of the flower bench. Just remember it has to be able to stand on its own.

7) Attach the bench to the back with glue. Lay the glue along the thin edge of the bench, press it onto the back and hold it in place for a minute.



8) Optional Step: Make a support underneath the middle of your bench. Cut a paper roll to fit under the bench. Color it to match your theme. Glue the edge of one open side of the roll. Place under the bench and press the bench down on the roll for a minute.



**Use your imagination
to create your own
original bench using any
materials you find.**