

3-D Buildings

Essential Question	How can we represent a community and create a building out of paper?
Grade	1st
Time	30–45 minutes
Art Concepts	2-D to 3-D, drawing, sculpture
Materials	Any piece of paper, a pencil, tape or staples
Artwork in Focus	<u>Angels Flight, 1931 by Millard Sheets</u>
Talking about Art	<p>Today we are going to talk about <i>community</i>. Community is a group of people who have something in common, whether it's going to the same school, playing soccer or taking dance class together, or living in the same city or neighborhood. You are part of many communities, including the community of your family.</p> <p>The artist of this painting, Millard Sheets, was an American artist and teacher known for his paintings of California people, places, and landscapes.</p> <p>His painting <i>Angels Flight</i> is about an electric cable railway here in downtown Los Angeles that carries people up and down a steep hill. There was also a stairway built so people could take the stairs instead of the cable railway. You can't see the cable railway in the painting, but you can see the staircase, which had 123 steps and ten ramps! The women in the painting are looking down from the top. Would you rather ride the cable railway (which is like sitting on a train) or take the stairs?</p>

Sheets was part of the L.A. community, and so are you. There are also smaller communities, like people who live in the same apartment building. How would you describe the people in the apartment buildings in the painting? What are they doing?

Making Art

Today you will be making your own apartment building out of paper.

1. In order to create a **3-D** building shape, take a piece of paper and fold it in half like a book (not the tall and skinny “hot dog” way but the shorter and wider “hamburger” way).
2. Unfold the piece of paper. Now fold one edge of the paper into the middle crease you created when you folded it in half. Repeat this on the other side—fold the edge to the middle crease. Now when you unfold the paper, it will have four sections. If you stand it up on the table, you’ll see that it’s starting to look like the shape of a building.
3. But lay your building flat on a table so you can decorate it. Draw windows, doors, and if you want, fire escapes. Draw the windows big so you have room to draw people inside.
4. Then add lots of details. Think about the people in the apartment building in the painting. What are the people in your apartment building doing that you can see through the windows or on the fire escapes? What furniture can you see through the windows? Do the people have plants in their apartments or on their fire escapes? Are they talking to their neighbors? Are they having a barbecue?
5. Color in some of your details, but you don’t have to color in everything. When you’re done, you can tape or staple the building and adjust it so it stands.

Reflection

Let’s look back at Sheets’s painting *Angels Flight*. Are any of the people in your artwork doing something similar

to the people in *Angels Flight*? Are any of the people doing something different than in *Angels Flight*?

Who did you put in your building? Real people or made-up characters?

For an extra challenge, write a short story about the people in your building community or in the *Angels Flight* painting!

Curriculum Connections California Arts Standards for Public Schools—Visual Arts

1VA:Cr1.2: Use observation and investigation in preparation for making a work of art. 1VA:Cr2.1: Explore uses of materials and tools to create works of art or designs. 1VA:Re7.2: Compare images that represent the same subject.

Common Core State Standards English Language Arts

SL.1.2: Ask and answer questions about key details in a text read aloud or information presented orally or through other media. SL.1.4: Describe people, places, things, and events with relevant details, expressing ideas and feelings clearly. RI.1.9: Identify basic similarities in and differences between two texts on the same topic (e.g., in illustrations, descriptions, or procedures).

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