

Painting with Paper

Essential Question	How can collage art help us express our understanding of community?
Grade	2nd
Time	30–60 minutes
Art Concepts	Collage, mixed media, process, layering
Materials	9-by-12-inch cardboard, 8½-by-11-inch copy paper, pencil, marker, mixed media/various papers, glue stick
Artwork in Focus	<u>Mark Bradford, <i>Shoot the Coin</i>, 2013</u>
Talking about Art	<p>We're going to spend some time looking at <i>Shoot the Coin</i>, a mixed-media artwork by contemporary Los Angeles artist Mark Bradford. What do you see? What materials do you think the artwork is made of? It may look like a painting, but it is actually a type of collage—that is, an artwork made by gluing pieces of different materials to a flat surface.</p> <p>Bradford's process is all about layering: First he glues many layers of found materials (paper, magazines, newspapers, maps) to his canvas. Then he covers everything with a clear glaze. And lastly, he uses a sanding tool to remove parts of the upper layers and reveal some of the layers underneath.</p>

What else do you notice about the artwork? This artwork is **abstract**, which means that it does not include images of reality as we know it (such as people, places, and things); instead, shapes, colors, and textures are used to create meaning.

Bradford grew up in Compton and is inspired by his neighborhood, the people in his community, and the ways that outside forces have shaped the area. Although *Shoot the Coin* is mostly abstract, we can see hints of a city map if we look closely. Bradford intended that this artwork shows how the highways that have been built in L.A. over time have physically divided communities, and also show how our own memories change the way we see things.

Making Art

1. Think about your neighborhood. Do you live in a large city where the roads are in a grid? Do you live in the suburbs, with fewer buildings and more land in between? Maybe the roads are long and curvy? Using a sheet of paper, draw your neighborhood with a pencil first, and then outline it in black marker.
2. Glue your drawing paper onto the cardboard really well (cover the surface of the paper with glue).
3. Go on a scavenger hunt around your house to look for collage materials (scrap paper, newspaper, magazines, junk mail, construction paper, paper bags, etc.).
4. Arrange all of these mixed-media pieces on top of your drawing and then glue them down using very little glue.
5. Once you have added multiple layers of collage materials on top of the original drawing, carefully tear away parts of

the upper layers to reveal the other layers and the drawing underneath.

Reflection

Artist Bradford likes to layer different kinds of paper and then peel back some parts to expose layers underneath. What did your peeling expose? What images were you able to find underneath all the layers?

Does your finished piece remind you of your community? How? Does it remind you of anything else?

Curriculum Connections California Arts Standards for Public Schools

2.VA:Cr2.1: Experiment with various materials and tools to explore personal interests in a work of art or design.

2.VA:Cr2.3: Repurpose found objects to make a new artwork or design. 2.VA:Re7.1: Perceive and describe aesthetic characteristics of one's natural world and constructed environments.

History Social-Science Framework for California Public Schools

2.2: Geography and mapping skills—People, Places, and Environments

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