

# PAPER MACHE / MIXED MEDIA

By Teaching Artist Steve Brouse / Grades 6 through 8



## Words for Knowledge !!!

*Paper Mache* was invented in China many years ago. Since that time it has served many uses. It was known to be used to make helmets, furniture, costumes and many other forms of art as you might learn should you decide to further your interest. This lesson, however, will be a 3-Dimensional, mixed media project.

- Paper Mache - a form made when wet paper is mixed with glue or flour and pressed and/or molded to create various forms of art when dry.
- 3-Dimensional - object that can be measured in 3 dimensions (height, width, and depth) opposed to a flat surface.
- Mixed Media - artwork in which more than one medium or material is used (ex: cloth, paper, wood, plastic, paint, etc.)

## Before you begin:

Consider working neatly and organized. Find all the materials that you will need to start with. I simply think of the first few steps and that will be making the paper mache object itself.



- Choose the surface you plan to apply the paper mache to. This could be a cardboard box, a paper plate, and in my case, a plastic coffee container. Tape, hot glue, and/or bottled glue may work well for attaching pieces to the main form.

- Next, it is time to mix up the paste and cut or tear strips of newspaper, newsprint or any paper that doesn't have a glossy finish to it. For the paste I used 50/50 glue and warm water and mixed well. Start with less glue and add more as you need it.



- Once you have the paste mixed up and the strips of paper torn or cut into pieces, you can begin to apply the mache. It is important that the paper becomes fully saturated yet excess is squeezed out before you begin to layer.

1. Coffee container and attached lid for form with one layer of strips.
2. Decided to add a few more bottle caps and lids for more dimension and detail / fun.



1.



2.



3. Here is the form with approximately 3 layers of mache. This may take 6 to 10 hours to become dry enough to paint.

Here I have found some mixed media that I can use to finish my project. If I looked harder I may have found more items, such as:



- Cloth material
- Household paint
- Beans
- Rice
- Yarn
- Buttons
- Bottle caps
- Felt
- Foil
- Pastas
- String

Beginning of the painting process:



After painting , adding detail, and gluing on all the fun things I found around the house I am done. What will your 3-Dimensional Paper Mache Sculpture look like? Please follow the steps and share with us.

Steve Brouse is a Teaching Artist with Center for Creative Education in West Palm Beach, Florida.

Submit a photo of your finished work to Center for Creative Education via email, [info@cceflorida.org](mailto:info@cceflorida.org), with your first name, age, and city or town in which you live, for a chance to have your work showcased on our website or social media pages!

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