

Norton Simon Museum

Art-Making Activity: Curate the Collection

When organizing an exhibition, curators decide which artworks will be included, and how they will be displayed. They select a theme, choose artworks that fit the theme (and fit in the gallery) and write explanatory labels for the individual artworks and introductory labels introducing the theme and context of the show.

Curate your own small exhibition of up to 10 artworks from the Norton Simon collections that fit a theme. Choose from the selection of artworks on the [Curate the Collection](#) page or search the [Collection](#) for more options.



Norton Simon Museum's Modern Art Gallery and Pastel Gallery.

Materials:



- 10 artwork images
- Cardboard base
- Thin cardboard (cereal, snack or tissue boxes)
- Construction paper
- Scissors
- Glue
- Pencil

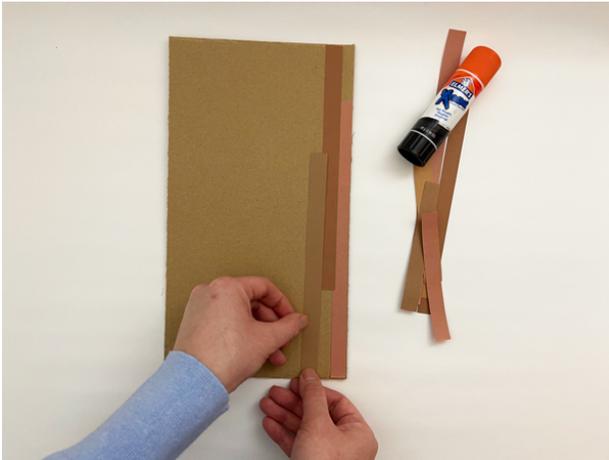
Steps:



Print and cut out 10 images of artworks from the Norton Simon's website that relate to a theme of your choice. For example, I chose artworks from the 19th and 20th centuries for the theme, "The Modern World."



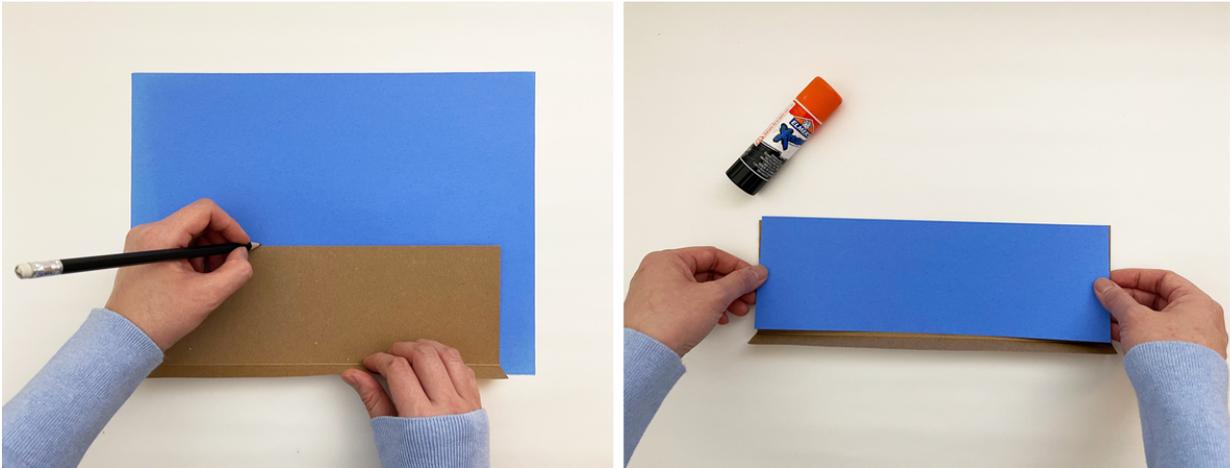
As you review the artworks you've chosen, think about how you want viewers to look at the images, and how they fit together. Your exhibition should tell a story and progress from object to object.



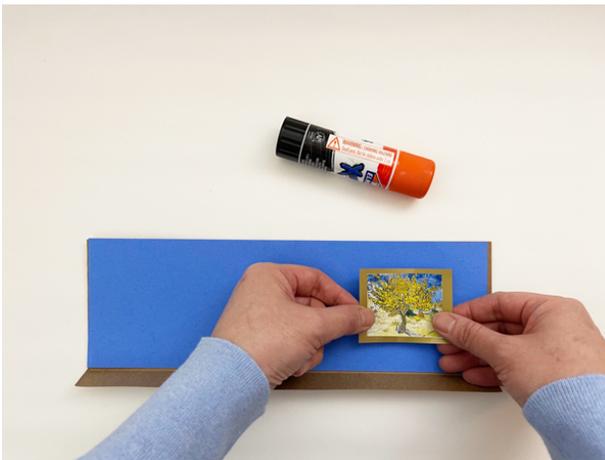
If you wish, add flooring to your base by collaging strips of construction paper. (You can also simply trace the outside of your base onto construction paper, cut out the shape and glue it down onto the base.) For this example, I used a 7" x 11" cardboard for the base, but you can choose a size that fits your vision of how the artworks will be displayed.



Use thin cardboard to cut out the walls for your exhibition, keeping in mind the size of the base that you are working with.



Fold the cardboard you are using for your wall about a 1/2 inch from the bottom (this tab will be glued down onto your base later). Then decide on colors for the walls of the gallery, choosing something that would work well with your artworks and your theme. Trace the outline of your wall onto construction paper, leaving the 1/2-inch tab at the bottom of the wall uncovered. Then glue the construction paper onto your wall.



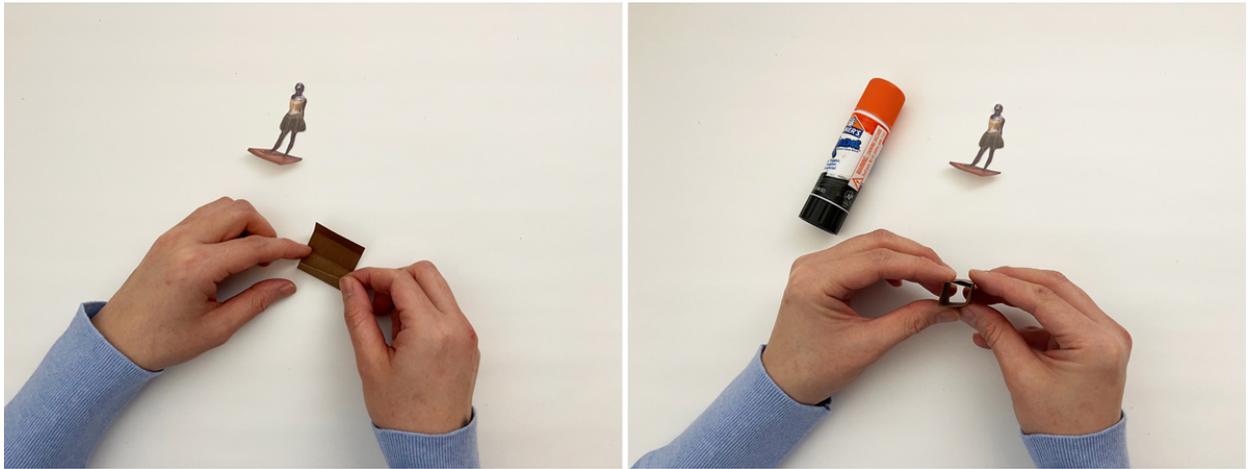
Next, add frames to the paintings by cutting a piece of construction paper a little larger than your image and then gluing your image onto that paper. Look for colors that complement the artwork without taking attention away from it. Then, glue the artworks to the walls.



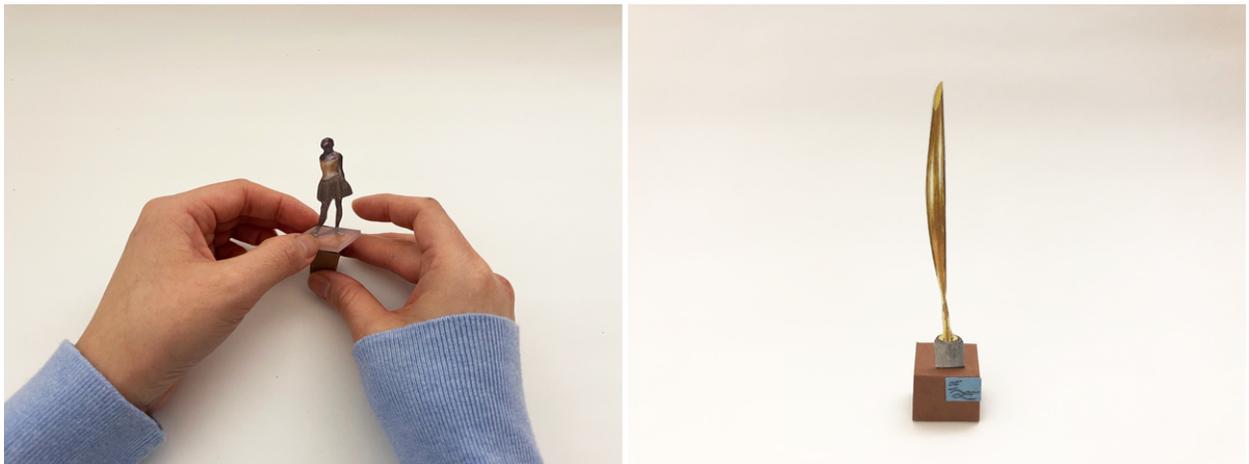
Add exhibition labels for each artwork by cutting out small pieces of construction paper and gluing them to the right side of the artwork.



Put glue on top of the 1/2-inch tab at the bottom of your wall and then tuck the tab under your base, pressing the base down onto the folded area to secure it in place.



If you chose sculptures for your exhibition, explore making a pedestal to support your sculpture. For this example, I used a piece of construction paper that was 1" x 2-1/2". Fold the short end of a piece of construction paper over about a 1/2 inch and then again four times. Unravel the paper and glue the edges together to form a square shape.



Then, glue the sculpture onto the pedestal. You can also explore flipping the pedestal to its side and cutting the length to create a smaller pedestal.



Give your exhibition a descriptive title and glue it onto one of the walls of your exhibition.



Finally, imagine walking through your thoughtfully curated exhibition and giving a friend or family member a tour.