

Norton Simon Museum

Art-Making Activity **Window Suncatcher**



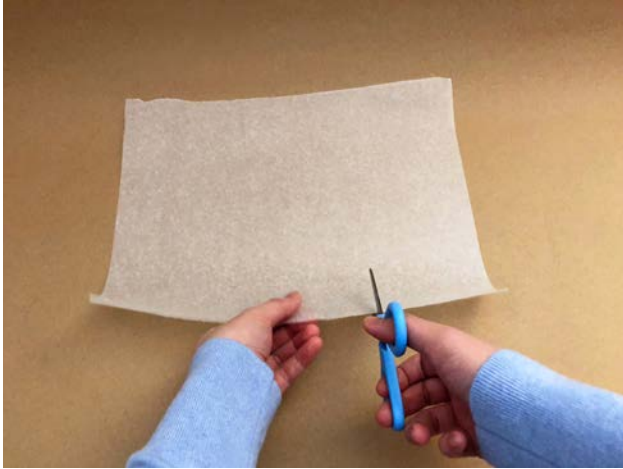
LEFT TO RIGHT: *The Traveler*, 1915, Liubov Popova (Russian, 1889–1924), oil on canvas, Norton Simon Art Foundation; *Still Life with Musical Instruments*, 1918, Georges Braque (French, 1882–1963), oil on canvas, Norton Simon Art Foundation, ©2021 Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York/ADAGP, Paris

Twentieth-century artists Liubov Popova and Georges Braque both incorporated fragmented forms in their paintings. Inspired by Popova's *The Traveler* and Braque's *Still Life with Musical Instruments*, create a window suncatcher using common household items to shine colorful patterns into your home. Find out more about these artworks and follow along in an [art-making video](#) with Mariko Tu, former manager of youth and family programs at the Museum.



Materials

- Wax paper, parchment paper or a large Ziploc bag
- See-through materials (like tissue paper, coffee filters, clear packaging from recycled materials)
- Markers (if using coffee filters)
- Construction paper
- Scissors
- Clear tape
- Glue (liquid glue if using parchment paper)



Steps

1

Begin by cutting a piece of wax or parchment paper to your desired size. This will be the base of your window suncatcher. I cut mine to be about 8" x 10".



2

Sort through your see-through materials and cut them into pieces.



3

If you are using coffee filters, you can draw a design on them using markers. I was inspired by the music notes in Braque's *Still Life with Musical Instruments* and the diagonal lines in Popova's *The Traveler*.



4

Cut your coffee filter into fragments.



5

If you are using wax paper, make sure that the waxy side is faced down. Then, explore different ways to arrange your shapes onto your base. You can try overlapping pieces or make patterns by repeating shapes.



6

If you are using wax paper, add glue to the non-waxy side of the wax paper and glue down your pieces to make a collage. If you are using parchment paper, make sure to use a liquid glue instead of a glue stick otherwise your shapes will not stick once the glue dries.



7

Take a piece of construction paper larger than your suncatcher and using a pencil, trace the outline of your suncatcher onto the construction paper.



8

Lightly fold your construction paper in half so that the short ends touch and make a cut in the center of the fold.



9

Begin cutting your frame, leaving space between where you are cutting and your pencil outline so that your frame (the edge around the area you are cutting) is a little wider than it would be if you followed your pencil outline exactly. This is so that the frame will overlap your suncatcher.



10

Flip your suncatcher over and center it onto the frame so that your suncatcher overlaps the frame.



11

Tape down your suncatcher to the frame so that it's secure. Clear tape is best so that you don't see the tape through the frame when you stick your suncatcher to the window.



12

Flip your suncatcher and frame over. You can keep the edges of the frame straight, or you can cut the edges with curvy details.



13

Flip your suncatcher over and begin rolling pieces of tape and sticking them to the back of the frame.



**Finally, stick your suncatcher
to a window and watch as light
and color enter your home!**