
Norton Simon Museum

Art-Making Activity Drum Making

Spring is a season of rebirth, when nature awakens and flowers bloom again. In his form as Lord of Dance (or Nataraja), Shiva, the Hindu god of destruction, enables the rebirth and continued harmony of the universe through his dance. In his outer left hand, he holds the flame of destruction and in his outer right hand he holds a *damaru*, a hand drum that made the first sounds of creation. His two other hands are in the mudras, or gestures, of comfort and protection. Inspired by Shiva's *damaru*, create a drum from materials found around your home and use sound to welcome the rhythm of spring.

Shiva as Lord of Dance (Nataraja), India: Tamil Nadu, c. 1000, bronze, The Norton Simon Foundation



Materials

- A large can that has been emptied and cleaned (or other recycled food containers)
- Collage paper (decorative papers or papers from magazines and newspapers)
- Construction paper
- Scissors
- Glue
- Fabric or sturdy plastic from an old table cloth, shower curtain, or retail bag
- Yarn, string, or a large rubber band
- A small amount of dried beans, paper clips, soda can tabs or other small items that would make a sound if placed inside a can



Steps

1

Begin by tearing off the label of your can to start with a clean base.



2

Look through your collage papers and cut out images, colors and shapes that remind you of spring.



3

Consider the size of your cut-outs in relation to your can, and, using these cut-outs, explore different ways of arranging your composition.



4

Once you have your composition, glue the cut-outs onto your can to make a collage.



5

Place a few small items from around your home that would make a sound inside your can.



6

Shake your can to test out the tone. Explore adding and removing different items to see which sound you like best.

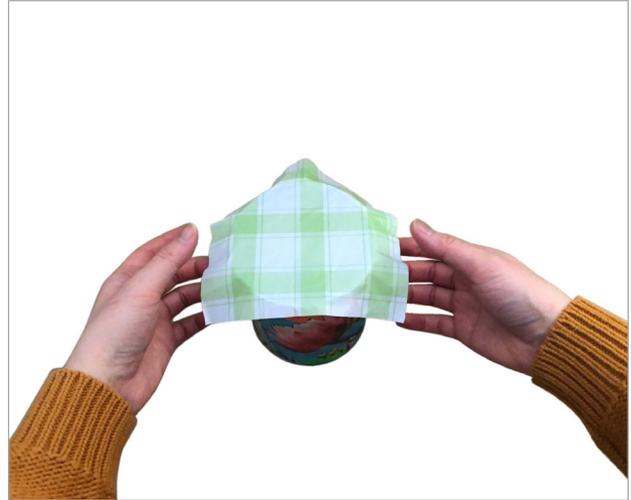


7

Once you've found a sound you like, take a piece of fabric or plastic, place it over the top of your can and tap the top of your drum. If your fabric or plastic feels too thin, add one more layer on top.

8

Cut the fabric or plastic into a square larger than the opening of your can so that it can cover the top and run over the edge.



9

Tie a piece of yarn around the fabric or plastic making sure that it is taut. You may want to ask a family member or friend to hold the fabric in place while you tie the yarn.

Finally, welcome the rhythm of spring by shaking and playing your drum for your friends and family to hear!

