



# School Visits

2019–20 Grades  
K–12

Online Learning – DIY:  
Found Object Sculpture!

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Our world is going through a very unusual time with people staying home to help keep each other healthy. Many of us are turning to creativity and artmaking to find joy, humour and an opportunity to share **our stories**. Artmaking materials are everywhere around your home. Picasso, Duchamp and Oppenheim were some of the many artists who made us aware of the endless possibilities of materials we can use for our artmaking. Old toys, cardboard boxes, plastic bottles and other recyclables could be used to make your very own **found object sculpture**!

### About this resource

Thanks for accessing our Online Learning resources! These step-by-step instructions will help you and your family to express their own creativity and build connections to the Ontario Arts Curriculum.

### About us

Harbourfront Centre School Visits is an experiential, hands-on learning program that offers curriculum-focused, inquiry-based programs that explore all aspects of contemporary arts and culture. Every year, we host 26,000 students onsite for meaningful engagements with the arts. We trust you will find the step-by-step guide outlined below will allow creativity to shine through!

### Suggested Grade Range:

Grade 1 and up

### Curriculum Links:

The Arts – Visual Arts, Language

### Key vocabulary words

- **BALANCE:** An even distribution of weight enabling someone or something to remain upright and steady.
- **STRUCTURE:** A solid that has a shape, size and purpose. It holds a load.
- **GRAVITY:** A force which tries to pull two objects toward each other. Anything which has mass also has a gravitational pull. The more massive an object is, the stronger its gravitational pull is.
- **FOUND OBJECT ART:**  
A type of sculpture made of materials and objects that are found in the environment and are not normally considered artmaking materials. The materials and objects are reorganized and reassembled into a new form.

### Required Materials

- **SCISSORS**
- **TAPE** (any kind of tape)
- **RECYCLABLES** (such as cardboard boxes, plastic bottles, plastic lids, egg cartons, paper rolls and any other objects you may find around your home such as toy parts, old hoses, etc.

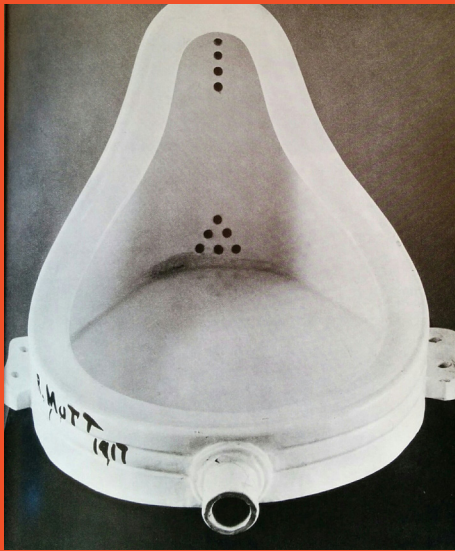
# History

Pablo Picasso, *Still Life with Chair Caning*, 1912



In 1912, Pablo Picasso, one of the most influential artists of the 20th century, glued a printed image of chair caning onto one of his paintings and titled it *Still Life with Chair Caning*. A printed image was not considered an artmaking material and people were shocked to see that something other than paint was added to a painting.

Marcel Duchamp, *Fountain*, 1917



In 1917, Marcel Duchamp took a urinal, placed it on its side, put it in an art exhibition and called it *Fountain*. People were outraged that someone would call a urinal art. Duchamp took an object from real life, called it art and the function or how people saw the thing changed. Duchamp called these pieces “readymades.” Artists were challenging the way art was made and what was considered art.

Meret Oppenheim, *Object*, 1936



Meret Oppenheim took an everyday teacup and saucer and lined it with fur and titled it *Object*. Was she challenging us to think about how women were viewed in the 20th century art world? Women were objects in the sculptures and paintings of countless male artists. Was she poking fun at the notion of ladies sipping tea in their fur coats?

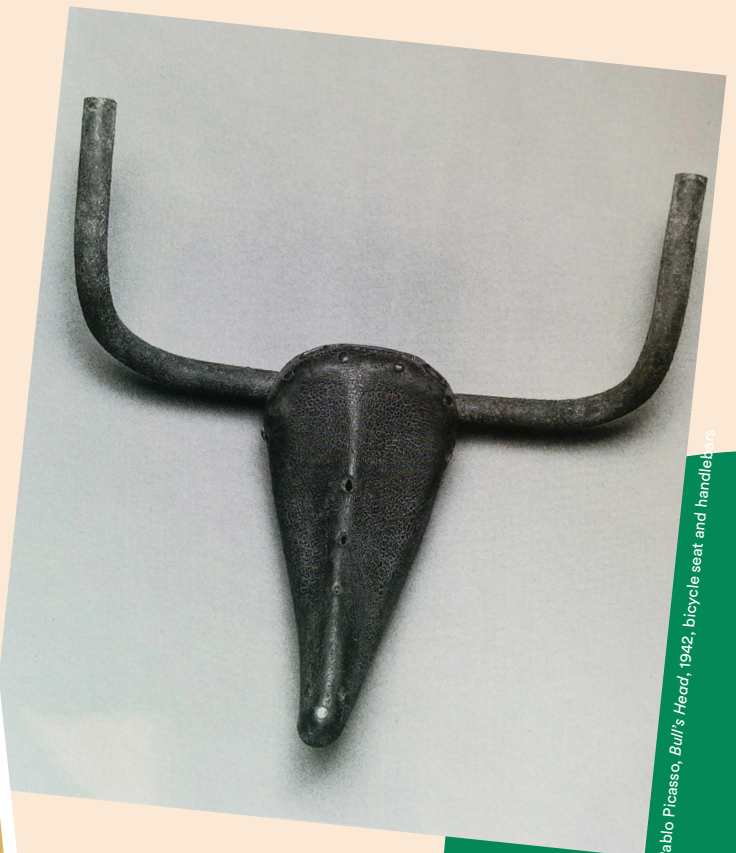


# Step-by-step instructions

## Step 1:

Imagine for a moment you are Pablo Picasso and you see a bicycle and notice that the shape, colour and texture of the seat looks like the head of a bull. The handlebars are shaped like horns, and if the two were attached together, it would become a found object sculpture that looked like the head of a bull.

Take a good look around your home and collect as many materials/objects as you can find (recyclables, old toy parts, electronic parts, any discarded objects).



Pablo Picasso, Bull's Head, 1942, bicycle seat and handlebars

## Step 2:

Pick up one of the objects and say to yourself, *"I know it is a box or bottle, but what could it be?"* Experiment by turning it over and around. Use your imagination and have fun arranging a few of your objects in different ways to see if they look like something.



## Step 3:

You may want to cut into or add onto an object, or fold it. The foil tray was folded, transforming it into a large open mouth. Cut up the cardboard packaging to use the various shapes.



## Step 4:

Add details using a variety of materials (e.g. black tape and foil for an eyeball). Tape each part on securely and do the wiggle test to ensure each piece won't fall off. Look for interesting shapes. You are making a sculpture, a three-dimensional work of art, so think about making it interesting from all points of view. Walk around the piece and consider it from every angle.





## Step 5:

Secure the parts of your sculpture together using tape. Notice each paper roll has several pieces of tape. The tape is applied tightly along the base and up the paper roll. There are no gaps. This is to ensure the structure will be able to hold to the weight of the objects.



## Step 6:

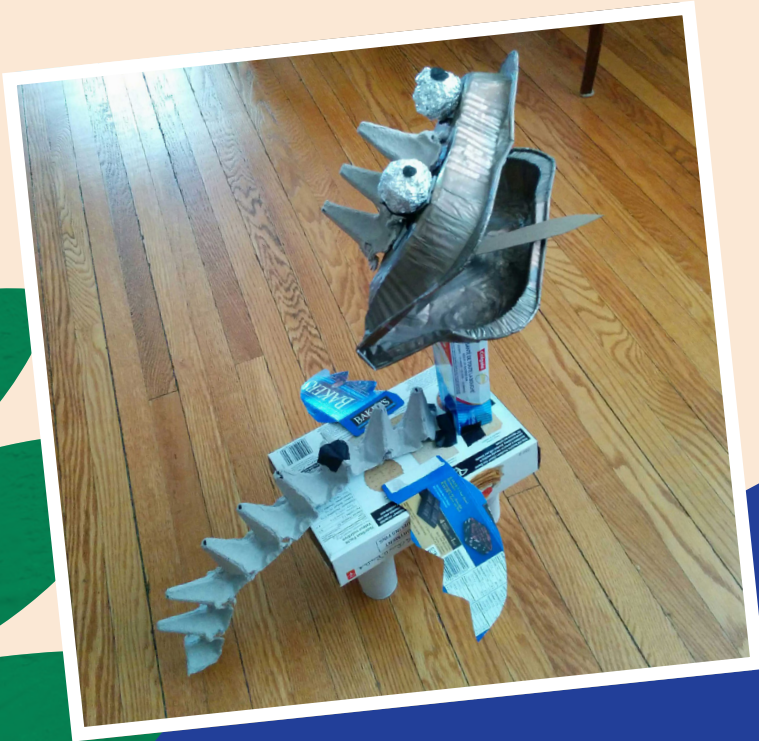
Ensure that your structure is balanced. Experiment with the placement of the objects so that it is balanced securely, and that gravity does not take over and pull it to the ground.





## Step 7:

Step back and walk around your piece, and add any details to ensure interest from all points of view.



## Extensions:

Tell a story about your creation. Maybe it has a new function that will help the world. This found object sculpture is solar powered and able to water the garden and conserves water and energy.

