GET CREATIVE WITH
BOISE ART MUSEUM

Inspired by Elsa Mora’s artworks on display in
Contemporary Cuban Art:
History, Identity, and Materiality

Create a Paper Collage

Background
Elsa Mora explores themes of identity, connectivity, and survival. In many of her artworks, she uses paper and color as her sole methods of expression. In Fading, she shaped paper into small bowls and arranged them into a flowing design. In The Search, Mora cut intricate shapes out of a solid piece of paper, incorporated red accents, and placed the cutout onto a black background.

Project Description
Create a textured or 3D artwork using only paper, while considering themes of identity, connectivity, or resilience. As seen in Elsa Mora’s artworks, ideas can be expressed representationally or in the abstract by the use of repeating lines or shapes.

Paper can be used in many ways. It can be folded, wrinkled, coiled, cut with an exacto knife or scissors, stacked, and more, to create actual depth, or the illusion of depth. Often artists use several different colors of paper to achieve their desired result.

Materials
- Piece of background paper
- Papers in one or more colors
- Pencil
- Scissors or exacto knife with cutting surface
- Glue

Instructions ➾

Elsa Mora, La busca (The Search), 2014, cut paper, Collection of the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art, Museum Purchase supported by John Fisher and Jennifer Caldwell.

Create a Paper Collage

Instructions
1. Choose your subject connected to identity, connectivity, or resilience. This could be a concept, idea or an object. Consider if your approach will be abstract or representational. You may want to begin with something easy before trying something more complex, like creating intricate patterns.
2. Create a few practice sketches on scratch paper to decide on a design.
3. Then, use a pencil to lightly sketch your design on a piece of background paper.
4. Use your scissors or an exacto knife to cut out the pieces of paper you will use to represent your subject. You can cut with scissors, fold, wrinkle, coil, or stack. You can also cut out shapes from your pieces of paper with an exacto knife to add texture. If you use an exacto knife, be sure to have a cutting mat to protect other surfaces.
5. Arrange the pieces of paper over the top of your sketch until you are happy with your design.
6. Use glue or a glue stick to adhere your pieces of paper to your background.

Questions to consider
• Did you use paper in a new way today? How?
• If you instead created this artwork by painting rather than cutting paper, how would the artwork be different?
• After completing this project, does your understanding of Elsa Mora’s artworks change? In what way?