



SONOMA VALLEY MUSEUM OF ART

Art Rewards The Student

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# Art in a Box after Louise Nevelson

Teaching Artist: Diane Egger-Bovet



# Louise Nevelson: September 23, 1899 – April 17, 1988

Louise Nevelson was an American sculptor known for her monochromatic assemblages and large outdoor sculptures.

*Assemblage: a work of art made by grouping found or unrelated objects*    *Monochromatic: containing or using only one color*



# Start with a Shallow Box

Start with a small, shallow box or shoebox lid. You can also use an old tray or cut up a cereal box. Be creative!

Collect things you can fit inside your box. Don't be limited to the suggestions on the next page. If you have other fun things that have interesting shapes that you don't mind gluing onto your sculpture, then by all means use them! Louise Nevelson would collect all sorts of wooden shaped pieces for her sculptures.



# Gather Interesting Things

- Old puzzle pieces
- Cardboard
- Popsicle sticks
- Toilet paper/paper towel rolls
- Beads
- Buttons
- Bottle caps
- Corks
- Small wood pieces
- Old clothespins
- Things from nature...leaves, sticks, acorns, small pine cones, rocks, shells
- Glue, glue stick, Scotch tape, paste, hot glue (anything works!)
- Optional: Paint, Markers, Mod Podge



# Make Some Choices

Now the fun starts. How are you going to arrange the objects in your box? Things to think about are:

**Repetition:** using 1 cork looks one way, using many corks in a row looks different.

**Size and Shape:** try to use different sizes and shapes.

Does your sculpture seem **Balanced**?

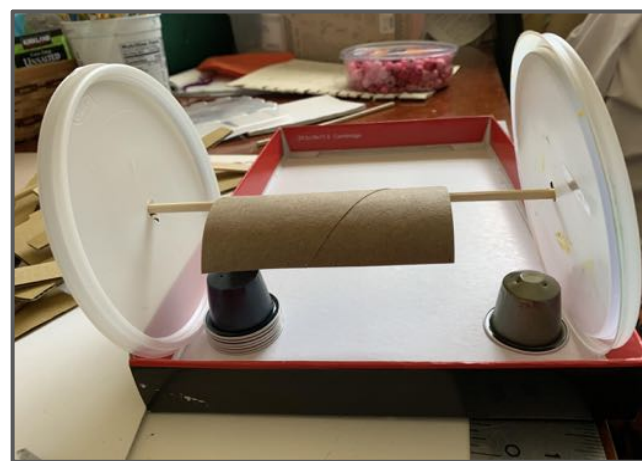
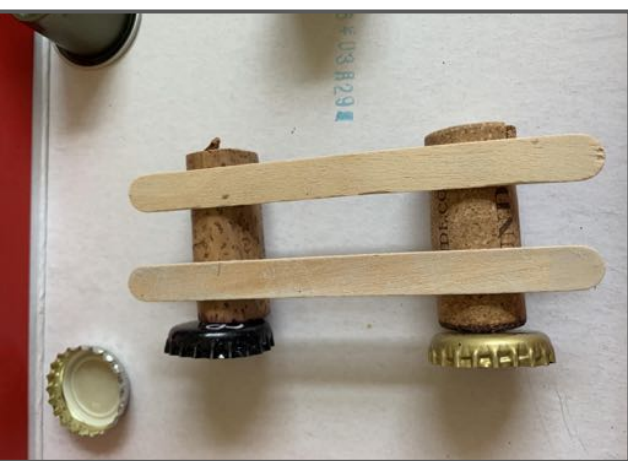
How tall do you want your sculpture to be? Will it be stable?

Is your sculpture going to be **Abstract** or **Realistic**?



# Experiment! Arrange things in different ways...





# Grab Some Glue (if you like)

Once you have decided how you want your sculpture to look, you can start gluing things down.

Remember to glue from the bottom up. In other words, if you have a tower of four things, glue the one on the bottom first, then the next one, etc. Use enough glue so things will stick.

If you are using leaves, you can roll them up around a pencil or marker and glue them (or use Scotch tape) so they look like a small log. Ivy leaves work very well for this. Once everything is glued down, leave it to dry.





# There are no right or wrong answers

Remember, you can use a lot of things or just a few. You can build something tall or short. Things can stick out from the box or not. You are the artist.

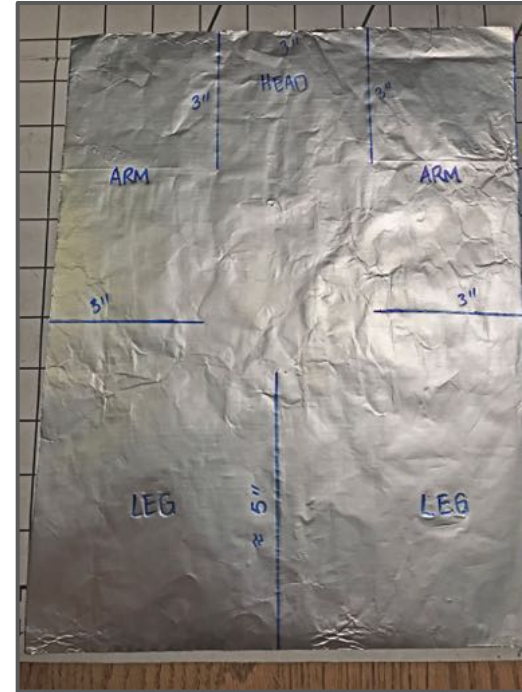
Once dry, you can paint it if you want or decorate it with markers. You can also leave it like it is. Louise Nevelson usually used one color for her sculptures. She was very interested in shapes and shadows and using one color helped emphasize those things.



# How to Make a Tinfoil Figure

Supplies: Tinfoil (12 inch wide works well), Marker/Pen, Ruler, Scissors

1. Cut a piece of tinfoil about 12" by 9".
2. Mark off two 3" long lines at the top (at about 3" and 6"). This will be the head.
3. Mark off two 3" long lines about 5" down from the top. These will be the arms.
4. Mark off one 5" line from the bottom, right in the middle. These will be the legs.
5. Now cut the lines.
6. **Gently** start scrunching the legs. Then the arms. Then the head. Go slowly so you don't crunch the foil too tight. You can see the shape of a figure emerging as you go.
7. You can form your figure into various shapes. Have it do a handstand, or sit down. Can you cross its legs? Maybe it is dancing or kicking a ball.
8. You can tape it to a piece of paper and take it outside and see its shadow. Can you draw the shadow?
9. If you have made a sculpture in a box, you can add your figure to it.
10. Once you make one, you can make a whole family! Can you figure out how to make a dog? Or a cat? Have fun.



*Lesson concept and photographs by Diane Egger-Bovet  
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