



SONOMA VALLEY MUSEUM OF ART

Art Rewards The Student

ARTS@Home

## ***Painting with Scissors like Matisse***

Teaching Artist: Diane Egger-Bovet



### **Lesson Overview:**

**Project Description:** Need some guidance on how to put together a collage? Take inspiration from the artist who invented it and try “Painting with Scissors” like Henri Matisse!

**Bonus:** How to make homemade paste *and* a Matisse Paper Doll!

**Medium or Technique:** Collage

**Materials Used:** Pencil, Scissors, Assorted Paper (printer, tissue, or construction paper, old gift wrapping paper and cards, colorful advertisements that come in the mail, newspaper, magazines, brown paper bags or paper packing material, old homework, etc.)

**Grade Level:** 3rd grade and up, younger with help. Requires scissors.

### **CA Visual Arts Standards:**

**Grade 4:** 2.1 Explore and invent art-making techniques and approaches.

**Grade 5:** 1.2 Identify and demonstrate diverse methods of artistic investigation to choose an approach for beginning a work of art.

2.1 Experiment and develop skills in multiple art-making techniques and approaches through practice.

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# Instructions:

## Step 1: Gather Materials

Matisse liked to use lots of organic shapes in his collages. He also used lots of bright colors. You can use a **limited color palette** working with just newspapers and brown paper bags, or you can make something more colorful using colored paper or pages cut from magazines.

Gather your different kinds of paper together. Have glue or paste, scissors, a pen or pencil, and a larger piece of paper ready to make your collage on.

## Step 2: Cut Two Long Strips

Depending on the size of your white paper, cut two long strips of brown paper or newspaper. They should fit side by side with a little gap in between. They will look like two long banners running across your paper.

Glue or paste them down. (Learn to make paste at the end of this lesson!)



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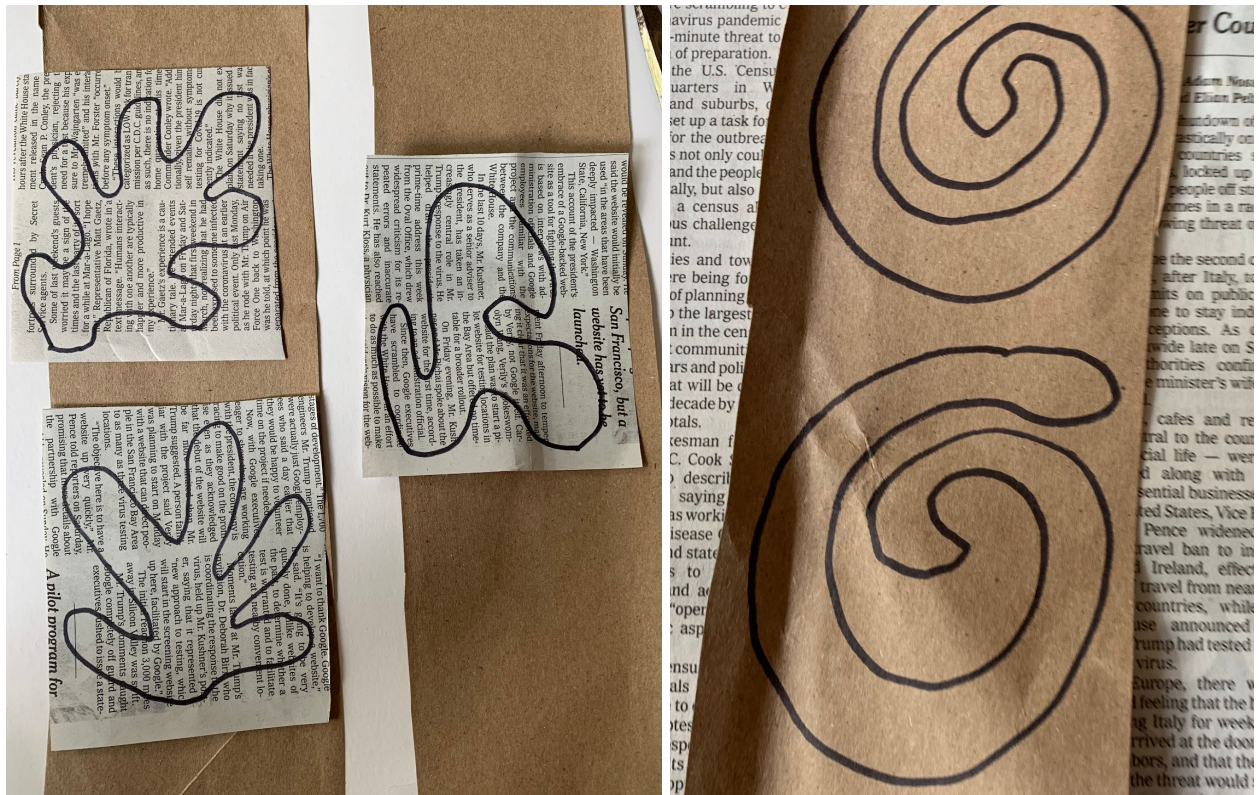
### Step 3: Cut Some Strips or Squares

Cut out two more strips from your other kind of paper, approximately the same size as your first strips. Don't glue them down. You can cut some squares that are about as wide as your strips are too.

You will use these to draw shapes on. Think about what kind of shapes you want to use:

- Organic leaf-like shapes?
- Squares and triangles?
- Straight lines and circles?
- Spirals and zigzags?
- All of the above?

Draw some interesting shapes and then carefully cut them out.



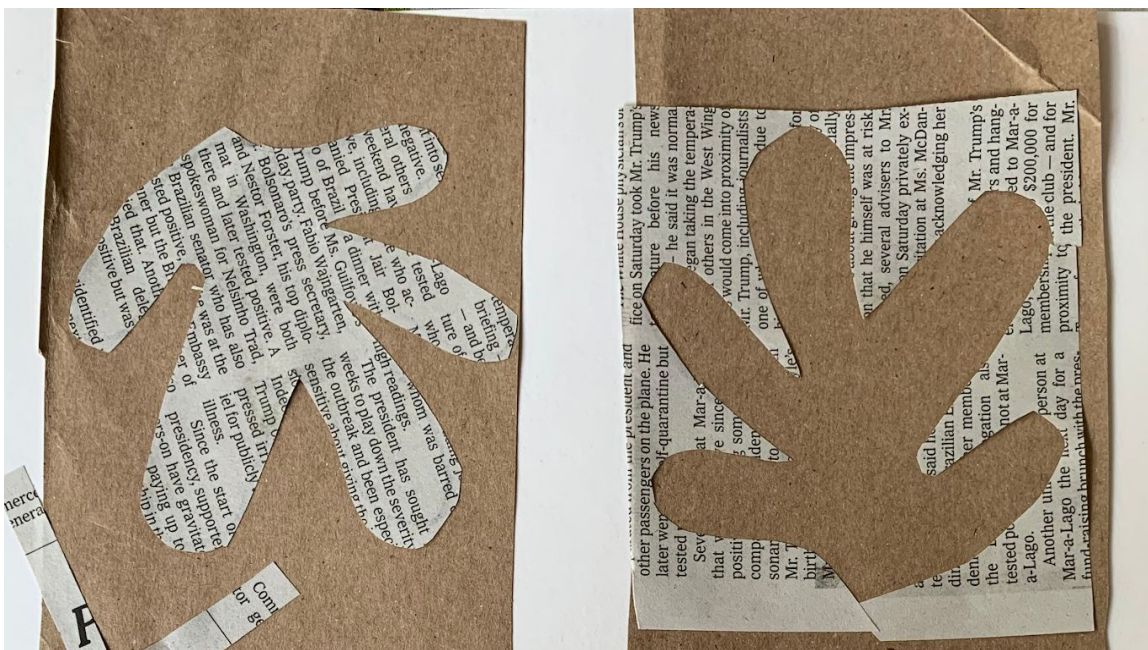
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## Step 4: Think About Positive & Negative Space

Remember, you can use the shapes you cut out *and* the piece of paper you cut the shape out from, so try cutting carefully and keeping the outside of the shape intact.

Did you know that one is called the **positive** space and the other the **negative**?

Can you tell which is which?



You can also cut strips out. They can have smooth edges, jagged edges, or curvy edges.



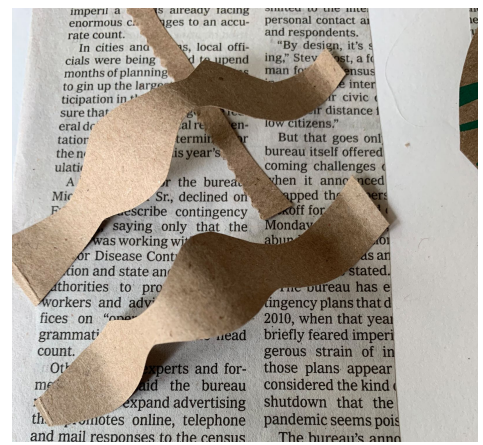
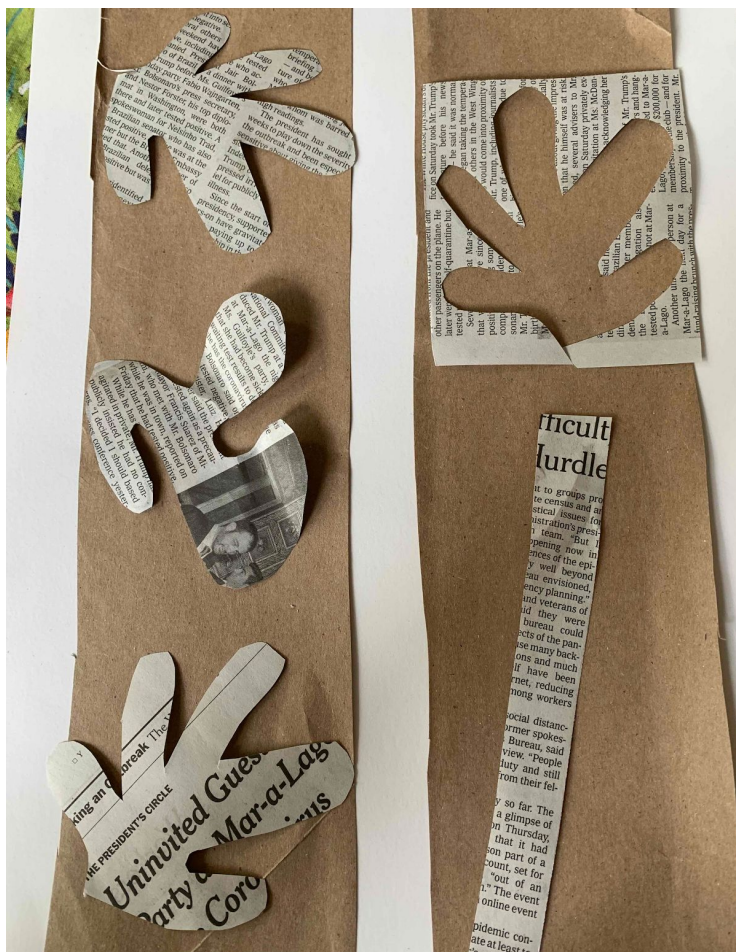
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## Step 5: Get Your Shapes Moving!

Think about where you want to place your shapes on your two long strips. Try them in different places. Can you find a pleasing arrangement? Remember, you can overlap the shapes or have them far apart. There are no wrong choices. Once you know where you want your shapes to be, glue them down.

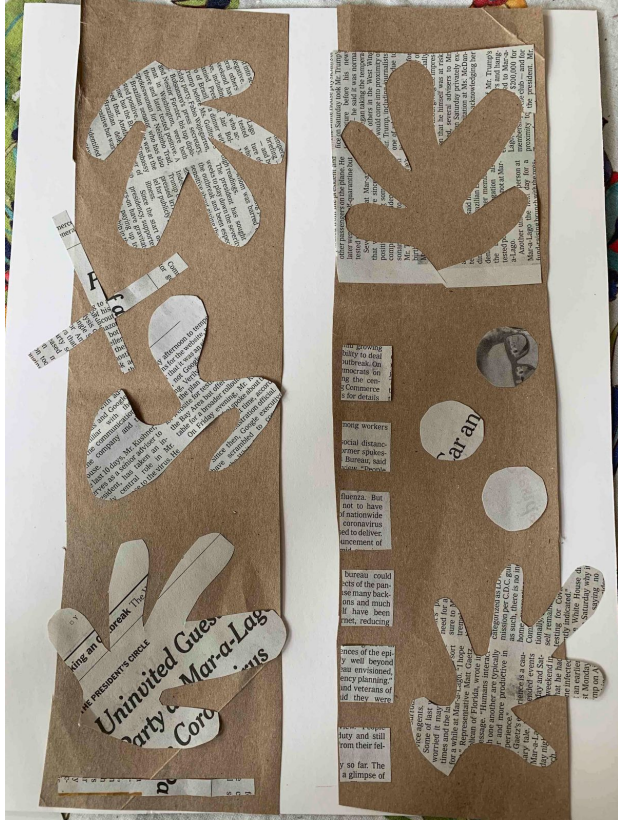
You don't have to glue everything down flat either. You can make your collage more three dimensional by having things pop out.



You've made your collage!

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## Additional resources:

A short clip of Matisse working on a cut-out:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GN0okOq8Hyc>

Visual Description of Matisse's process (Warning: mild, hand-drawn nudity)

<https://www.moma.org/interactives/exhibitions/2014/matisse/the-cut-outs.html>

## Vocabulary:

**Positive Space** refers to the actual object.

**Negative Space** is the space around and between objects.

## How to make homemade Paste:

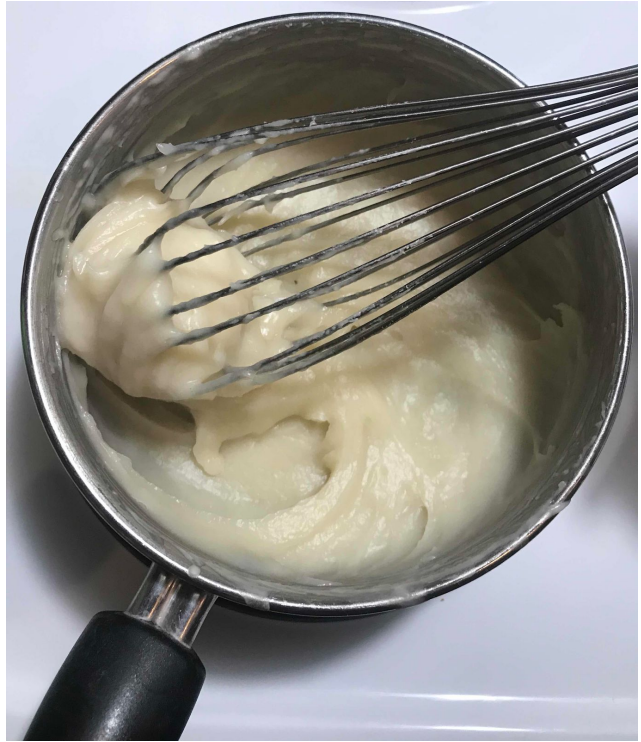
### Paste:

Wheatpaste has been used to make books and bind paper for centuries. It is very simple to make, dries clear, and holds up well over time. Be sure to have an **adult** help you make your paste!

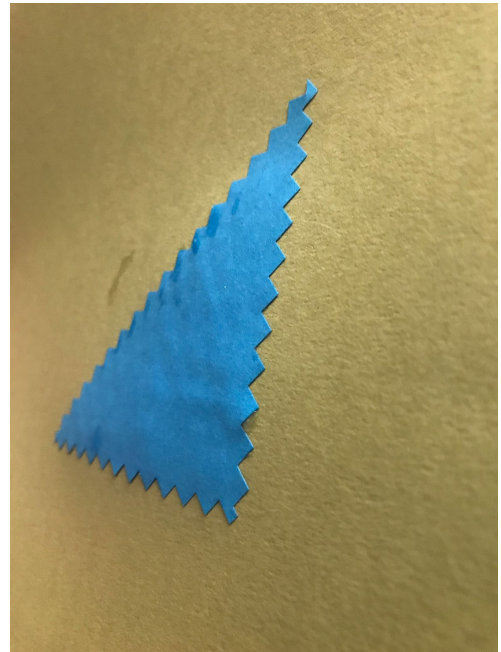
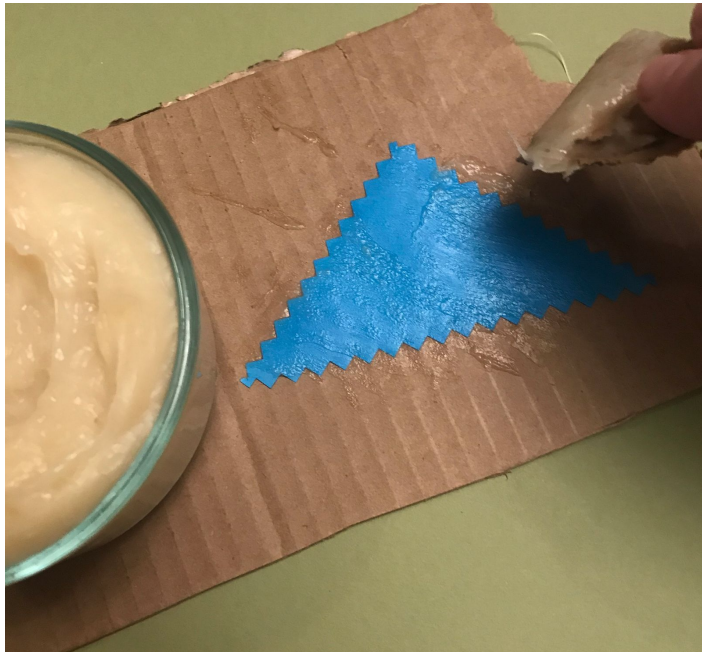
In a small saucepan, gently stir  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup of flour into 1 cup of cold water. When it is smooth and the lumps are gone, turn on the heat to low. Stir your mixture constantly with a whisk or a spoon, being sure to scrape the bottom of the pan well as you go. When it has turned very thick and just a little bit shiny, turn off the heat and let your paste cool. Stir in two pinches of salt to help keep it fresh, and store it in the fridge in a covered container.



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Spread your paste with an old brush, a small piece of cardboard, a Q-tip, a popsicle stick, the back of a spoon, or even your finger! Spread it thin, a thinner layer is better when you are working with paste!



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# Henri Matisse

Color Matisse and his artwork then you can cut out his clothes and dress him

