

Fiber Fusion Vessels

Artists love to experiment with their work and with a variety of materials. Now more than ever, the line separating artistic disciplines is blurring — you don't have to be just a painter, just a sculptor, or just a fiber artist. This project helps students stretch their imaginations and further develop a two-dimensional artwork they've created by turning it into a three-dimensional sculptural piece.

This project should be considered "Part Two" of our Fiber Fusion lesson plan. Begin by completing the Fiber Fusion project at www.dickblick.com/lesson-plans/fiber-fusion.

Grade Levels 7-12

Note: instructions and materials are based upon a class size of 25 students. Adjust as needed.

Preparation

1. Have students follow the Fiber Fusion lesson plan at www.dickblick.com/lesson-plans/fiber-fusion to create a 12" x 12" sheet. Allow it to dry.

Process

1. Students plan their 3-D "vessels" by creating small mock-ups with white drawing paper or notebook paper. Structures should be designed for balance and visual interest.



Materials

Weldbond® Universal Adhesive 8-oz, (23819-1105); share eight across class

Blick® Foamboard 20" x 30", 3/16", package of 10, (13209-1023)

Alvin® Utility Knife (57459-0000); share five across class

Acrylic Felt by the Yard assorted colors, 36" x 36", (63201-); share nine yards across class

Materials for Embellishment, recommend:

Acrylic Felt 9" x 12" assorted colors, 100-sheet package (63201-1003)

Unfinished Country Beads (60711-0000)

Wooden Spools (60444-1144)

Craft Button Assortment (61495-1001)

Natural Feathers (60910-)

Hygloss™ Ribbon Rainbow (61498-1009)

Hygloss™ Wooden Blocks (60452-1048)

Optional Materials

Blick® White Sulphite Paper, 12" x 18", 60-lb, 100-sheet package, (10209-1007)

Fiskars® Bent Scissors (57012-1008)

Leather Cord (61517-)

Excel® Aluminum Hobby Awl (28900-1000)

Large Plastic Covered Paperclips

Rubber Bands

Process, continued

2. When the design is complete, coat the back side of the Fiber Fusion sheet with Weldbond adhesive and cover it with felt in a variety of shapes, sizes and colors. The felt may stretch, so trim it as needed after the glue dries. Not only will the felt add bulk to the sheet, it will also add color and texture. A portion of the colored felt can be exposed in the completed piece, so plan the felt colors and shapes based on how they may enhance the finished look. Allow the piece to dry before moving on.
3. The Fiber Fusion material is strong and flexible but will need to be supported in order to create a vertical structure. Manipulate the sheet by cutting and stitching or gluing pieces back together. When using glue, hold the pieces together with clips or rubber bands until dry.
4. Glue or lace the sides together to form a “vessel” and let it dry. If stitching or lacing the sides, use an awl to punch holes so the cord can pass easily through the material.
5. Place the open-ended “vessel” on top of a piece of foamboard and trace around it to determine the size and shape of the base. The base can be round, oval, square or another shape, but keep it basic.
6. Cut the foamboard with a sharp utility knife to ensure a clean cut.
7. To attach the “vessel” to the base, cut a few slits in the bottom edge of the vessel and fold the edges up. Apply glue around the edge of the foamcore base, then fold the edges down and over the glue. Hold the edges in place until the glue sets.

Options

1. Use embellishments for decoration as well as to secure edges, camouflage imperfections, or help balance the piece.
2. Wood blocks, spools or beads can be glued to the bottom of the base as “legs” to help balance or enhance the finished piece.

National Standards for Visual Arts Education

Content Standard #1 Understanding and applying media, techniques and processes.

5-8 Students intentionally take advantage of the qualities and characteristics of art media, techniques and processes to enhance communication of their experiences and ideas.

9-12 Students apply media, techniques and processes with sufficient skill, confidence and sensitivity that their intentions are carried out in their artworks.

Content Standard #2 Using knowledge of structures and functions.

5-8 Students employ organizational structures and analyze what makes them effective or not effective in the communication of ideas.

9-12 Students create artworks that use organizational principles and functions to solve specific visual arts problems.