

Red, White and Denim Collage

Old blue jeans take a new role - starring in a piece of texture-filled fabric art!

An icon of American culture, blue jeans were patented in San Francisco 140 years ago. These riveted five-pocket denim trousers are recognized throughout the world as the true American fashion staple.

There's a wide variety of blue hues in denim, and a surprising amount of texture, too. Zippers, pockets, seams, labels - deconstruct a pair of blue jeans, rearrange the pieces, and it will create a low-relief, sculptural work of art.

Add color and embellish with opaque paint, markers, stitching, weaving, beading, stamping or other materials to combine the blue-jean icon with hints of the American Flag in a patriotic-themed, deconstructed denim collage.

GRADES 3-12 Note: Instructions and materials are based upon a class size of 24 students. Adjust as needed.

Preparation

1. Gather clean, discarded denim. Look for a range of blues from deep indigo to faded blue to white.
2. Mix a 50/50 solution of white glue and water. Store in an airtight container before distributing to students.

Process

1. Cut denim clothing into pieces. Aim for variety: wide, flat pieces from jean legs, frayed edges, torn strips, pockets, zippers, and seams.
2. While denim is dry, any of the following techniques may be used to prepare the fabric for sculpting:
 - Fold, gather, and stitch pieces using a blunt needle and embroidery floss.
 - Attach extra buttons and seed beads by sewing them onto the fabric.
 - Stamp designs onto the fabric with permanent ink stamps or block printing ink.
 - Transfer images onto the fabric using iron-on sheets
 - Place rubbing plates beneath fabric and add textures and designs using crayons or oil pastels.
 - Paint pieces of denim prior to sculpting using a permanent medium such as acrylic paint or ink.
3. Dip the denim pieces one by one into the glue solution or brush it on each side using a foam brush. Arrange on heavy chipboard or panel. Extra glue may be required to attach pieces together, especially at seams or when joining pieces. Squeeze undiluted glue from the bottle in these areas. Denim may be folded, bunched, twisted,



Materials (required)

Blick Economy Cotton Canvas Panels, package of 24, 9" x 12" (07015-1023); need one per student

Aleene's Tacky Glue, 16 oz (23884-1016); share threw across class

Media for adding color, recommend:

Caran d'Ache Neocolor II Artists' Crayons, Scarlet Red (20042-3081), White (20042-1001), Ultramarine (20042-5231); one each color per student

Blickrylic Student Acrylics, pints Fire Red (00711-3116), Blockout White, (00711-1086) and Primary Blue (00711-5016); share one pint each across class

Tonic Studios Plus Scissors, 2-1/2" cut (57079-1008); need one per student

Foam Brush, 1" (05114-1001); need one per student
Denim

Optional Materials

Blunt Tapestry Needle #13, 12-pack (65104-1009)

Creativity Embroidery Floss, set of 24 (63100-1009)

Craft Button Assortment, 1 lb (61495-1001)

Richeson Rubbing Plates, 7" x 7" (62108-)



Step 1: Gather and cut denim. Before sculpting, it may be stitched, stamped, painted, or printed.

Process, continued

rolled, woven — use any means of manipulating it to create form and dimension.

4. The glue will need to dry overnight. Red and white designs may be added with watersoluble artists' crayons while the denim is still wet with glue, or after it has dried. Once it has set, the denim sculpture will be very rigid.
5. Check for loose pieces and apply undiluted glue as needed.
6. As an option, brush a coat of gloss medium over the finished sculpture to seal the color, provide extra support, and add an overall sheen.

National Core Arts Standards - Visual Arts

Creating

Anchor Standard 2: Organize and develop artistic ideas and work.

Responding

Anchor Standard 7: Perceive and analyze artistic work.

Connecting

Anchor Standard 11: Relate artistic ideas and works with societal, cultural, and historical context to deepen understanding.



Step 2: Dip denim pieces in a 50/50 glue and water solution and arrange them on a panel.



Step 3: Draw and design with watersoluble artists' crayons, markers or more paint.