

# Make Recycled Art

Did you know that the average person in the United States creates five pounds of trash per day? Objects that might be considered trash by some can be used and reinvented as art! Instead of tossing those items into the landfill, this project shows you how to create some beautiful art with them.

## What you need:

- One small to medium stick from outside
- Various objects from around your home
- String or yarn
- Scissors

## Fun Fact



The artist El Anatsui made art out of recycled beverage containers. He used found material by flattening and connecting each bottle top with copper wire to form large sheets meant to hang vertically. Anatsui's technique developed dramatically through the reformation of individual tops, a practice that allows for extraordinary variation in pattern, color and shape. You can find his piece called *New World Map* on display at Frederik Meijer Gardens.

## How to:

1. Go outside and find one sturdy small to medium stick to use as the support for your wall hanging.
2. Tie each end of a long piece of string or yarn to each end of your stick. This is how you will hang up your design.
3. Collect and clean recycled objects from around your home including lids, cans, plastic containers, paperclips, old silverware, broken toys, etc. Be creative!
4. Arrange your composition: Lay your stick and found objects out on a work surface. Consider the different shapes, colors, textures and sizes of your objects and how far from your support stick you want each object to hang. Think about physical balance. For example, where should you hang your heavier objects vs. lighter objects?
5. For each object, cut a piece of string or yarn. We recommend varying the lengths of the strings you cut to add visual interest to your wall hanging.
6. With help from an adult, decide how to hang your objects. Create small holes if needed in your objects and thread the string or yarn through the holes or tie it on. Then tie each object to your base. Hold up your wall hanging. Is it symmetrical or asymmetrical? Do you notice any patterns? If you do not like the way your work of art hangs, try rearranging your objects.
7. Display your new wall hanging to share with friends and family!

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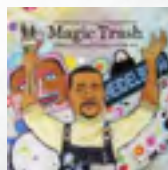




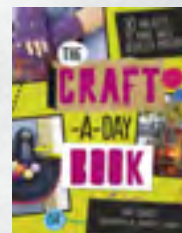
## What's happening?

When creating a work of art, artists consider visual balance as well as physical balance. Bold colors and larger shapes feel more massive than muted colors and smaller shapes. Symmetrical images use the same shapes and sizes on each side. Asymmetrical images do not match on each side but still feel like there is a similar amount of weight.

### Related Books:



*Magic Trash:  
A Story of Tyree  
Guyton and His Art*  
by J. H. Shapiro



*The Craft-a-Day  
Book: 30 Projects to  
Make With Recycled  
Materials*  
by Kari A. Cornell



*Fun and Easy  
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60 Cool Projects  
That Reimagine  
Paper Rolls, Egg  
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