

How do you tell a story without words? We will explore an artwork together before creating an arrangement with found objects that tells a story. This activity features a work of art from *Black Refractions: Highlights from The Studio Museum in Harlem*, a special exhibition at the Frye Art Museum.



Leonardo Drew. *Number 74*, 1999. Rust, fabric, string, stuffed toys, and wood. 97 × 96 1/2 × 9 in. The Studio Museum in Harlem; gift of Sue Stoffel 2008.20.1. Photo Credit: Adam Reich. © Leonardo Drew. Courtesy of Sikkema Jenkins & Co., New York; Anthony Meier Fine Arts, San Francisco; Talley Dunn Gallery, Dallas; and American Federation of Arts

GET INSPIRED

Leonard Drew started creating artworks from discarded objects as a young boy, having grown up in an apartment that faced a landfill. Though his current works might seem like they are composed of found objects, the materials he uses are often created in his New York studio and made to appear weathered and aged, as he explores the concept of time.

Through experimentation with materials and processes, Drew allows his work to speak for itself. He often titles his works with numbers and offers no explanations, leaving their interpretation to the viewers themselves.

Learn more about *Number 74* on The Studio Museum in Harlem's website: <https://studiomuseum.org/collection-item/number-74>

Take a moment to look closely at this artwork.

- What is going on in this artwork? What's the first thing you notice in this work?
- What objects do you recognize in this work? Why do you think the artist used these objects in this work? What stories do you think the artist is trying to tell by using these objects?
- What feelings or emotions come up as you look at this work? What do you see that makes you say that?
- Drew often uses the grid as a way of building his artwork. A **grid** is a pattern or structure made from horizontal and vertical lines crossing each other to form squares or rectangles. Where have you seen a grid before? What does the grid remind you of?
- The artist likes viewers to ask questions about his work. If you had a chance to talk to the artist, what questions would you ask about this artwork in particular?

MAKE SOME ART

Now it's your turn to experiment with composition using found objects. **Composition** is the placement or arrangement of the visual elements. Using objects you can find at home, you will create a 3D installation that is a visual representation of your day. This can be a day in the past that you enjoyed or an ideal way that you would like to spend a day.

You will need...

- 9 to 16 small found objects, such as toys, figurines, shells, utensils, etc.
- Pencil and paper for writing and sketching
- Optional: Square or rectangular sheets of paper in different colors

Let's get started

1. Start listing out all the activities and events for the day. Where do you go? What do you do? Who do you see?
2. Now, gather 9 to 16 small objects from around your home that symbolize each activity, event, or people you listed for your day. In particular, think about what you see, hear, feel, smell, or touch during that experience. Are there objects that you actually use as part of the event or activity?
3. Lay your objects down on a flat surface like a desk, table, or even the floor. Take a close look at all your objects.
 - How might you arrange them? Would you arrange the objects using a grid, similar to Drew's artwork, or a shape?
 - Would you organize your objects by the time of day that you use them? By color? By texture? By size?
 - How might these objects interact with each other in your arrangement?
4. If you decide to use a grid, one easy way to create a grid on a flat surface is to lay down 3 or 4 sheets of paper across, followed by a second row of 3 or 4 sheets of paper across, and then a final row of 3 or 4 sheets across. In total, you will use 9 or 16 sheets of paper. Feel free to use paper in different colors. Line up the sheets so that the sides touch each other. Each sheet of paper is now a spot where you can place your object, or you can also place your objects along the grid lines formed by the sheets of paper.
5. Once you have decided on your final arrangement with these found objects, take a picture or create a drawing of it. If you decide to draw, take note of the different textures, sizes, and colors of the objects.

SHARE YOUR WORK

How did your arrangement turn out? Be sure to share your work with friends and family to see if they can guess what some of your events or activities are. Don't forget to share it with us on social media using #FryefromHome.

Visit fryefromhome.blog for more Frye Families activities and inspiration.

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