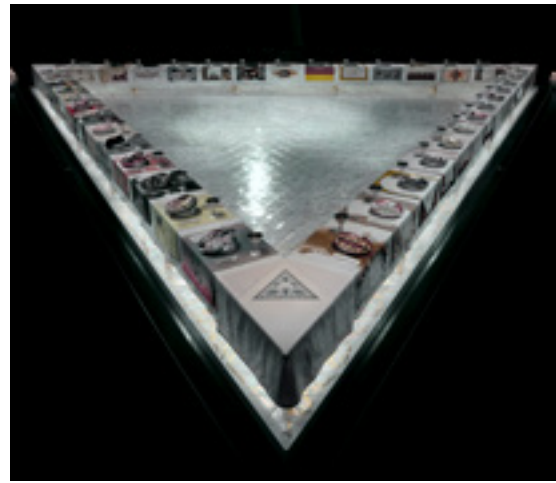


**Mini Art Lesson:**  
*The Dinner Party* by Judy Chicago

This week's Mini Art Lesson takes a closer look at one of the stars of our collection: ***The Dinner Party* by Judy Chicago**. Kids ages 2–6 can make place mats for their friends, family, and future dinner party guests. Kids 7 and up can make banners thanking important people in their lives, like caregivers, teachers, or even essential workers keeping us safe every day!



●FOR TEACHERS, CAREGIVERS, AND PARENTS  
 Access a **free teaching guide** packed with questions for viewing and great activities and resources.

**FOR AGES 2–6:**  
**LET'S PLAY**

Chicago created *The Dinner Party* between 1974 and 1979 as a way to honor women who were important in history. Each place setting at the table represents a different historical figure.

Look at this place mat for Ethel Smyth. What can you guess about this guest? (A)



Now, think of someone you miss and hope to have over for a dinner party when it's safe. What symbols or pictures can you draw that remind you of them? Draw several of these symbols or pictures on a piece of paper. (B)



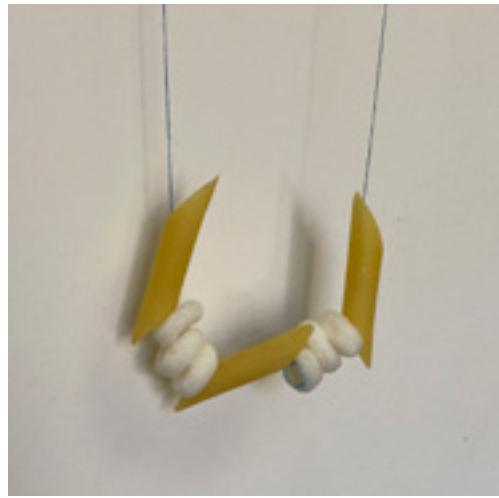
Think of a message to write to them. Start by thinking about what you would like to do when you first see them again. Have your grown-up write your message, or sound out each word and write the message yourself! (C)

Send a picture of your decorated place mat to your guest. As a special treat, you could even mail it to them!



FOR AGES 2-6:  
LET'S PLAY  
BONUS!

Look at some of the shapes in these pieces. Can you find similar shapes with some dry food items in your pantry? Make your own jewelry using household foods (like macaroni or cereal) and some string. You can wear your new jewelry to dress up for your future dinner party!



FOR AGES 7+:  
LET'S CREATE

Judy Chicago is a feminist artist and activist who also fought to change society. Today, we'll be creating art that has a message for the world.

While the place settings are the centerpiece of *The Dinner Party*, visitors are welcomed into the work with a series of woven entry banners. (A)

To make your own banner, you'll need:

- Fabrics or old clothing that you're allowed to cut up
- Scissors
- Writing utensils

To begin, start with one big rectangle. A solid, light color works best to draw on. (B)

Judy Chicago wanted *The Dinner Party* to bring attention to women from the past who had been ignored or kept out of history books. What community or person would you like to honor? Here, we will be celebrating essential workers who are keeping us safe right now.

A



B



FOR AGES 7+:  
LET'S CREATE (cont.)

Before focusing on ceramics and tapestries, Judy Chicago made abstract art. Can you see the influence of abstraction on these banners? Let's look at them for inspiration. (A)

Cut out some more fabric scraps. Starting with your biggest piece, make an organic shape. Then, layer more organic shapes on top of that. (B)

Is there a symbol that can help with your message? You can add that, too. Here, we added a face mask and a heart to represent essential workers. (C)

Now, glue all your pieces down so they stay in place. Fabric glue works best, but regular all-purpose glue can work as well. (D)

Finally, hang up your banner somewhere for the world to see, like your front door! (E)

A



B



C



D



E

