

Mini Art Lesson:
Revolutionary Sister by Dindga McCannon

In the 1960s and '70s, artist Dindga McCannon didn't see many Black women warriors, so she created her own in *Revolutionary Sister*. This mixed-media artwork is made from lots of different materials—including a Statue of Liberty-inspired headpiece made from recycled flagpoles and pieces from the hardware store. Follow along with step-by-step instructions as kids ages 2–6 create artworks made out of household items and paint, and kids ages 7 and up use found items to create images that make them feel powerful.



FOR AGES 2–6:
LET'S PLAY

In this lesson, we'll explore the items that make us feel free. We'll go on a scavenger hunt for art materials around our home or neighborhood and will make art with the objects we find.

Step 1: Think of a place that makes you feel happy and talk about it with your family. Museum Educator Tamar MacKay thought about the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, a place she's visited before with her family. (A)

Step 2: Now, it's time to find your materials! Go on a scavenger hunt and look for items that remind you of your favorite place. Here, Tamar uses a bouquet of flowers that she has at home and a few gathered sticks she found outside with her dog, Maple. (B)

A



B



FOR AGES 2-6:
LET'S PLAY (cont.)

Step 3: Gather a few household items and some paint (C). We recommend using:

- A brown paper bag as your canvas
- Painting and drawing materials (Tamar uses paint, pencils, correction fluid, and some brewed tea)
- Sponges, paper or newspaper, glue, and any other household materials

Step 4: Explore how you feel as you use your painting tools on your paper or paper bag. Here, Tamar paints with tea and uses a stick as her paintbrush. She also dipped a leaf in paint to create an imprint of it. (D)

Step 5: Now that you've explored your materials, it's time to make your art. Enjoy the process and try to feel free as you create! (E)

Step 6: Put your artwork on display or share it with a loved one! Tamar is going to send her art to her grandmother Flora, whose name means "flower." (F)

C



D



E



F



FOR AGES 7+: LET'S CREATE

In this project, we're making powerful images using everyday materials! All you need is a photograph, a pen or pencil, glue or tape, and a few found objects from around your home.

Step 1: Find an image of someone you look up to, such as a family member, friend, or maybe even someone you don't know. Senior Instructor Noé Gaytán chose to celebrate his grandmother. (A)

Step 2: Trace or sketch an outline of this person. You can fill in a few details, too. (B)

Step 3: Once you have your sketch, look around your home or neighborhood for 3–4 other materials. Noé is using yarn, because his grandma loved to knit and crochet; black pieces of paper from mailings, because black was her favorite color; and wrappers from one of her favorite snacks. (C)

A



B



C



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

Step 4: Now, take your materials and start to line them up on your sketch. Cut your materials into different pieces or shapes based on where you want to put them. (D)

Step 5: NGlue or tape your materials in place. If you have some empty space, use markers or colored pencils to fill it in. (E)

Step 6: Once you're done, hang up your creation in a place that will inspire you!

D



E



From top: Dindga McCannon (American, born 1947). *Revolutionary Sister*, 1971. Mixed-media construction on wood. Brooklyn Museum; Gift of R.M. Atwater, Anna Wolfrom Dove, Alice Fiebiger, Joseph Fiebiger, Belle Campbell Harriss, and Emma L. Hyde, by exchange, Designated Purchase Fund, Mary Smith Dorward Fund, Dick S. Ramsay Fund, and Carll H. de Silver Fund, 2012.80.32. © Dindga McCannon. (Photo: Brooklyn Museum); For ages 2–6: (Photos: Tamar MacKay and Ezra Benus, Brooklyn Museum); For ages 7+: (Photos: Noé Gaytán, Brooklyn Museum)