

Home Makes: Discovering Bauhaus

This activity is perfect for Key Stage 3 pupils (aged 11-14)

Bauhaus was an art movement founded in Germany in 1919. The movement rejected the traditional divide between fine art, craft and design and brought them together 'under one roof'. Bauhaus artists focussed on the use of materials and thought that an object's form should be inspired by its function.

Challenge yourself to recreate one of Josef Albers' geometric paper sculptures.



Materials:

Paper (gridded if you have it) or thin card.

Equipment:

- Camera or smart phone
- Scissors or craft knife
- Ruler
- Drawing compass (optional) or circular objects of different sizes that you can draw around (e.g. cups, plates etc.).
- Pencil

You'll learn about:

How to turn a 2D sheet of paper or card into a 3D object, explore negative space and shadow and geometric patterns.

Time:

This activity can take from 1- 3 hours.

There are lots of examples of Josef Albers paper sculptures, can you come up with your own variation?

Step one: draw out your template.

- Start by drawing and cutting out a 20cm x 20cm square from a piece of card or paper.
- Find the middle of your square by measuring 10cm from the left-hand edge and drawing a line. Then measure 10cm from the top edge of your square and draw another line; the lines will cross in the middle of your square.
- From the centre of your square draw concentric circles approximately 1cm apart. You can draw around different circular objects or use a compass if you have one.
- You're going to cut out some sections of your drawing to create your sculpture. Colour in the sections you're going to cut out first; try and leave points of connection that will join the sculpture together. This will probably go wrong the first time you try it—you can always join sections together with sticky tape if you cut them by mistake!



Step two: cut, fold and photograph your paper sculpture

- Using scissors or a craft knife, cut along the lines you have marked.
- Once you've cut along all your curved lines, fold the pieces along the centre lines to give a 3D shape.
- Using a camera or a smart phone, photograph the shadows that are cast by your sculpture. If you hang your sculpture in a bright light you could also try drawing the shadow it makes.

Talk and Make

- What would happen if you changed the distance between the circles?
- Can you figure out which lines to cut?
- What would happen if you cut the wrong lines? Can you still use the sculpture to cast interesting shadows?
- What would happen if one of your lines was off centre?

Top Tips:

- This is likely to go wrong the first time you try it but don't give up, see if you can figure out how to correct any mistakes. Also experiment, there is no correct way to create a paper sculpture, have fun trying to figure it out.
- It may be easier to mark the sections you are going to cut. Also start with paper so if it goes wrong you do not lose too much time
- Do not cut along your dividing lines. If you do you can repair with a little bit of sticky tape.
- Your lines can be as little as 1cm apart, however you might find it easier if they are 2cm apart.
- You can vary the angles you fold your shapes to create more interesting final pieces.



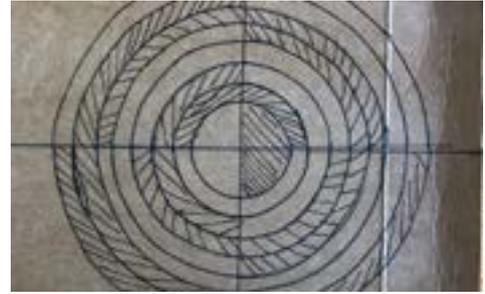
Gather all of your materials and equipment together.



On your piece of paper or card draw a 20cm x 20cm box and draw equal dividing lines on the horizontal and vertical



Start by drawing concentric circles from the centre of your page.



To cut the paper or card, fold in half and use scissors to make small cuts. I would recommend starting at the centre.



Using scissors or a craft knife, cut along the lines you have marked.



Once you've cut along all your curved lines, fold the pieces along the centre lines to give a 3D shape



Using a camera or a smart phone photograph the shadows that are cast by your sculpture.



Can you make one using squares instead of circles?

Be sure to share photos of your work with us using the hashtags; #EverydayMaking and #GetCreativeAtHome

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Or send to us directly at participation@craftscouncil.org.uk for us to share!