Earth Day Recycled Art Project

Learn how to reduce, reuse, and recycle in celebration of Earth Day 2020!

Create fun and colorful sculptures using recycled materials from your home. This project is based on the work of Joan Miró, who was a surrealist artist that made multicolored sculptures using bold shapes and forms that sometimes looked like figures with a face. So take a look around and see that kind of materials you can find to make a unique sculpture!

1. Gather Supplies:
   • Hot Glue Gun
   • Acrylic / Tempura Paint
   • Pipe Cleaner / Wire
   • Colored Masking Tape
   • Black Sharpie Marker

2. Recycled Objects:
   - paper cups, lids, plastic utensils, straws
   - Cardboard: toilet paper roll, paper towel roll, cereal boxes

Use scissors to cut your cardboard items into interesting shapes - think circles, long rectangles, and uneven triangles. Make some large pieces for the base and small pieces for the details.

Note: Since everyone will have different recycled materials, this material list is more of a suggestion, so work with what you can find at home.
Paint anything dull in color, like the cardboard or plastic containers, and use different colors for everything! The colors Miro liked to use were red, blue, yellow, green and black.

Let paint dry for at least 20-30 minutes.

Start to build your sculpture using the larger pieces as a base. With adult supervision you can attach the pieces together with a hot glue gun or tape.

Use the smaller pieces to add details (like a head, arms, or hair) and interesting shapes that make your sculpture unique.
7. Look at the colors that are already there and attach small pieces of contrasting colors where you think a pop of color is missing.

8. To make a spiral out of wire, use a pipe cleaner or piece of wire (like a wrap tie) and wrap it around your finger loosely, pull your finger out to keep the spiral shape.

9. Add wire or straw to pop out of the sculpture using tape or poke them through a hole.

10. Use the black marker to draw designs like shapes, a face, or whatever else you can imagine and then you’re done!