



## Aaron Douglas Harlem Renaissance Art



Aaron Douglas, The  
Judgement Day, 1939

Aaron Douglas was a Black painter who was influential in the Harlem Renaissance and often called the "Father of African American Art". The Harlem Renaissance was an amazing time in Harlem, New York, in the early 1900s that resulted in an explosion of Black art, performance, music, and literature. Douglas used a combination of modern art and African art to celebrate his heritage but to also bring attention to racism, making him a leader in Black self-expression art. Most of his works feature bold silhouettes of people, color blocking, and harmonious color schemes. Join us as we recreate Douglas's work using an overlapping tissue technique!

# 1



### Gather materials:

- Colored Tissue Paper
- White Cardstock / Watercolor Paper
- Glue Stick
- Pencil
- Scissors

# 2



Cover your entire paper with glue,  
from corner to corner.



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3



Use the lightest color of tissue paper and lay it over your paper. Cut off any excess unglued tissue.

4



Use a few sheets of medium colored tissue paper and draw circles in small, medium, and large sizes.

**NOTE:**

You can trace a plate or bowl to make your circle shapes.

5



Glue your circles on top of each other.

6



Then, with same color you used for the largest circle, cut out a wavy ground.



7



Glue down the circles in the sky and the foreground on your background.

8



Draw trees and leaves using medium shades of colored tissue paper. Every layer on top should be gradually darker than the layer underneath. Cut them out and add them to the corners.

9



Draw a figure using the darkest color tissue paper you have, in a strong position. This could be arms in the air or hands on hips, whatever position you like! Cut the figure out and paste it on the foreground you created.

10



Using the same color as your figure, add one more layer of ground and another natural element like a tree or cloud, or even another person. Then, you're done!