

Patterned Frames

Lesson plan prepared by Priya Andrade for the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia

Suggested Grade/Age Levels

Recommended for ages 5+ with assistance from an adult.

Subject Areas

- Visual Arts

Introduction

This activity explores how to make decorated frames with patterned borders to display artworks as well as shadow boxes to display photographs. Inspired by the work of Joseph Sleep, we explore pattern and stenciling.

Set Up

- Flat surface
- Materials nearby

Materials

- White paint
- Palette (Styrofoam plate or disposable pie plate)
- Paint Brush
- Ruler
- Pencils
- Eraser



Joseph Sleep, *Wharf with Sea Creatures "I am Afraid"*, 1977. Latex, glod paint, and felt marker on masonite. Permanent Collection

- Sharpener
- Scissors
- Glue
- Clear Tape
- X-acto knife
- Coloured pencils (or markers)
- Construction paper
- A small cardboard box (cracker box, cereal box, etc.) or the back of an art pad

Process

- If you are creating a shadow box frame, open up and flatten your cardboard box.
 - Using a ruler, measure out the border of your frame. We suggest a border size between 1" and 1.5". Cut out the center of your border with an x-acto knife (this step should be done by an adult).
 - Paint the outside of the frame with white paint. Let dry.
 - Think about what type of pattern you would like use to decorate your frame. Create a stencil of your desired shape by drawing it on a piece of cardboard and cutting it out. Trace your stencil on the border of your frame. Repeat until your boarder is covered with your drawing.
 - Colour in your patterned border. Consider alternating colours to create a dynamic pattern.
 - If you are creating a shadow box, attach your photo/artwork to the inside of the frame before closing your box. Put the box back together with clear tape.
 - Display a photo or artwork in your frame!
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