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# VIRTUAL CLASSROOM SERIES



Small Table and Rug, Henry Niese, Oil on Canvas, 1958

## PA STANDARDS

### Arts & Humanities

9.1.5.E - Know and demonstrate how arts can communicate experiences, stories or emotions through the production of works in the arts.

9.2.5.D - Analyze a work of art from its historical and cultural perspective.

## OVERVIEW

In this lesson, you will learn about Henry Niese's **Small Table and Rug, 1958**.

We will cover:

- Abstract Expressionism
- How to make Chicken Pot Pie
- How to construct a 3-D collage illustration



## HENRY NIESE

Henry Niese was born in New Jersey in 1924 and was inspired by the Abstract Expressionist Movement. He studied at the Cooper Union at Columbia University and at the Académie de la Grande Chaumière in Paris. While in France, he spent time with Picasso in his ceramics studio. He was awarded with the Pulitzer Traveling Scholarship in Art in 1954 and the W.A. Clark Prize in 1955. Niese taught at many institutions, including the British Museum, the University of Maryland, and Yale University. He lived in a farmhouse in Glenelg, Maryland, where he lived and painted until his death in 2016. Niese's works include interior and exteriors, portraits, and landscapes. Niese's figures often teeter on the edge of balance and disproportion in his works. Playing with colors, dimension, and perspective, Niese transforms common objects and personal experiences into lively pictures for viewers to interact with.

## ABSTRACT EXPRESSIONISM

The Abstract Expressionist movement developed in New York City in the 1940s and 50s. "Abstract Expressionism" was never an official title, and the artists were sometimes simply called "The New York School." These artists put importance on the process of the painting; focusing on how your body moves when painting on a very large canvas, and large blocks of color. Although their styles differed, the two most common types of works in the movement are action paintings (e.g. Jackson Pollock) and color field paintings (e.g. Mark Rothko). The movement was a response to the trauma of post-World War II America and was influenced by the time's politics. The artists had lived through the time of the Great Depression, when the economy was unstable and places felt isolated. The Abstract Expressionists are considered the first group of authentically American avant-garde artists, and their art shifted the focus of the art world from Paris to New York City.

### OBJECTIVES

- You will:
  - Be able to name two types of Abstract Expressionist art.
    - Action paintings
    - Color field paintings
  - Know when Abstract Expressionism began in the US.



### TRY THIS!

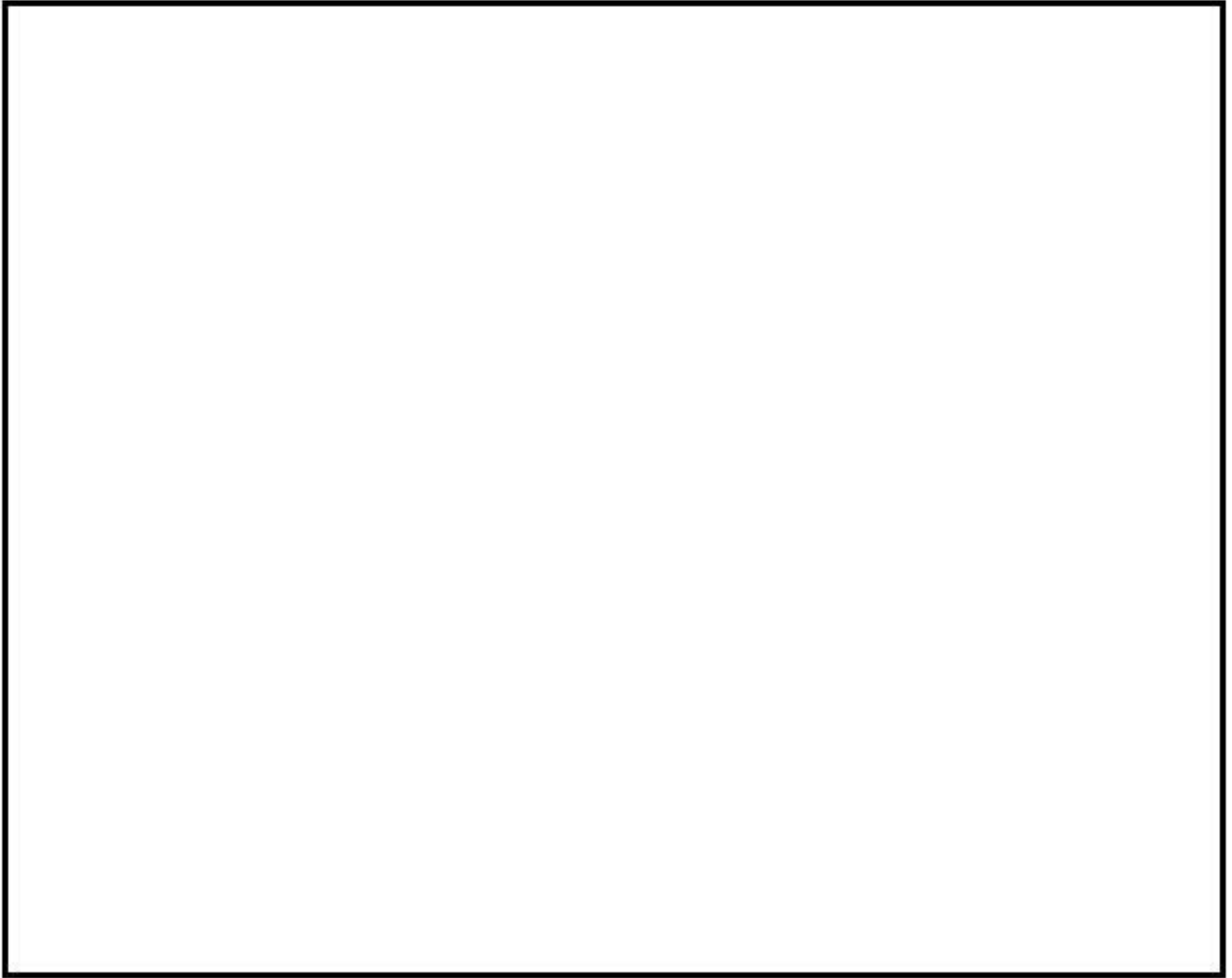
Use the following worksheet to draw how you feel about this type of art? Do you like it? Why or why not? Write a short sentence describing why.



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Handwriting practice lines consisting of solid top and bottom lines with a dashed middle line. There are four sets of these lines.



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# COOKING DEMO: CHICKEN POT PIE WITH CHEF JAMES



## MYTH OR FACT?

The origin of pot pie is unknown but, many claim that it came from ancient Rome. Some even said that they would put live birds so that when they cut into the pie, the birds would come flying out for an extravagant Roman feast. It remained popular and found its way all over Europe and United States. It continues to be a popular dish in present day.

## INGREDIENTS

### Pie Crust (Makes 2)

4 cups flour  
1¾ cups butter  
1 tablespoon sugar  
2 teaspoons salt  
1 tablespoon vinegar  
1 egg  
½ cup ice water

### Chicken Pot Pie

1 pound boneless, skinless chicken breast (cubed)  
1 cup sliced carrots  
1 cup frozen peas  
1 cup diced potato  
1/2 cup sliced celery  
1/4 cup butter  
1/2 cup chopped onion  
1/3 cup all-purpose flour  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
1/4 teaspoon pepper  
1/4 teaspoon celery seed  
2-3 cloves garlic, minced  
1 3/4 cups chicken broth  
2/3 cup milk

## OBJECTIVES

- You will:
  - Know the background and history of Pot Pie.
  - Learn how to make Chicken Pot Pie.





## DIRECTIONS

### Pie Crust

- Using a pastry blender or fork, mix flour, butter, sugar, and salt together until the mixture resembles coarse crumbs.
- Combine vinegar, egg, and water and mix well. Add wet ingredients to the flour mixture and blend quickly. Be careful not to overwork dough; mix just until liquid is absorbed by the flour mixture. Refrigerate at least 15 minutes before rolling.



### Chicken Pot Pie

- Preheat oven to 375° F
- Sauté vegetables and chicken in oil or butter
- Mix in flour to make a roux then add broth and simmer
- Add peas at the end
- Roll out pie crusts and place one on the pie plate. Pour hot chicken mixture into pie plate. Top with second crust. Cut away excess dough and seal edges. Make several small slits in the top to allow steam to escape. Bake for 50 minutes, or until pastry is golden brown and filling is bubbly. Cool for 10 minutes before serving.



## TRY THIS!

Can you come up with a new recipe that uses pie crust?  
ex. Rugelauch, Palmiers, Crostata

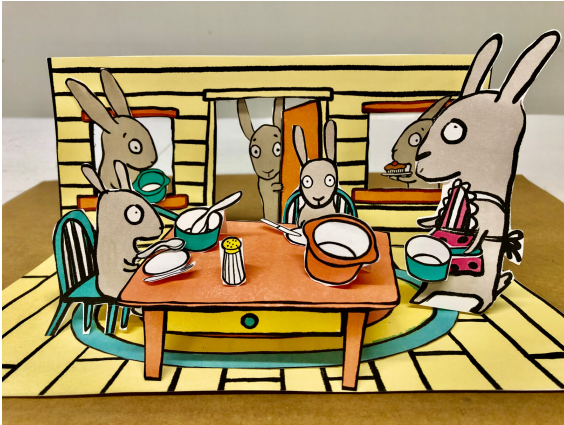






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## ART MAKING: 3-D COLLAGE ILLUSTRATIONS WITH LINDSAY



### Process

- Print out, draw or cut out of magazine(s): the original 10 visual elements; add new elements, furniture, characters, animals, and/or people that inhabit the 'space' in the new and interpretive collage/artwork; arrange, glue down and color all the visual elements on a folded heavy paper 'base', and create a collaged illustration or narrative artwork that tells a story.
- Ask yourselves: Is this a real or an imaginary space/place?
- Is this the beginning, middle or end of a story?
- Is it meaningful to me? Is it, in some way, a personal story? What's the story?

### OBJECTIVES

- You will:
  - Create an original collaged illustration, using the 10 elements found in Henry Niese' painting – 'Table and Rug' – expanding and adding to these elements.
  - Create an environment, a 'mood', that will tell a story, or illustrate a 'step' in a narrative – either the beginning, middle or end.



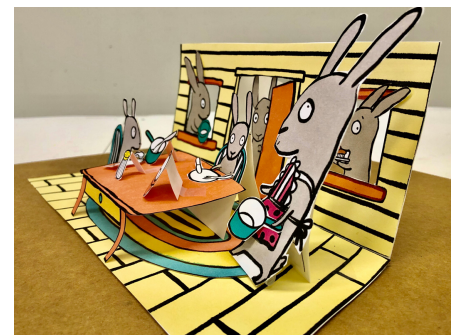
### MATERIALS

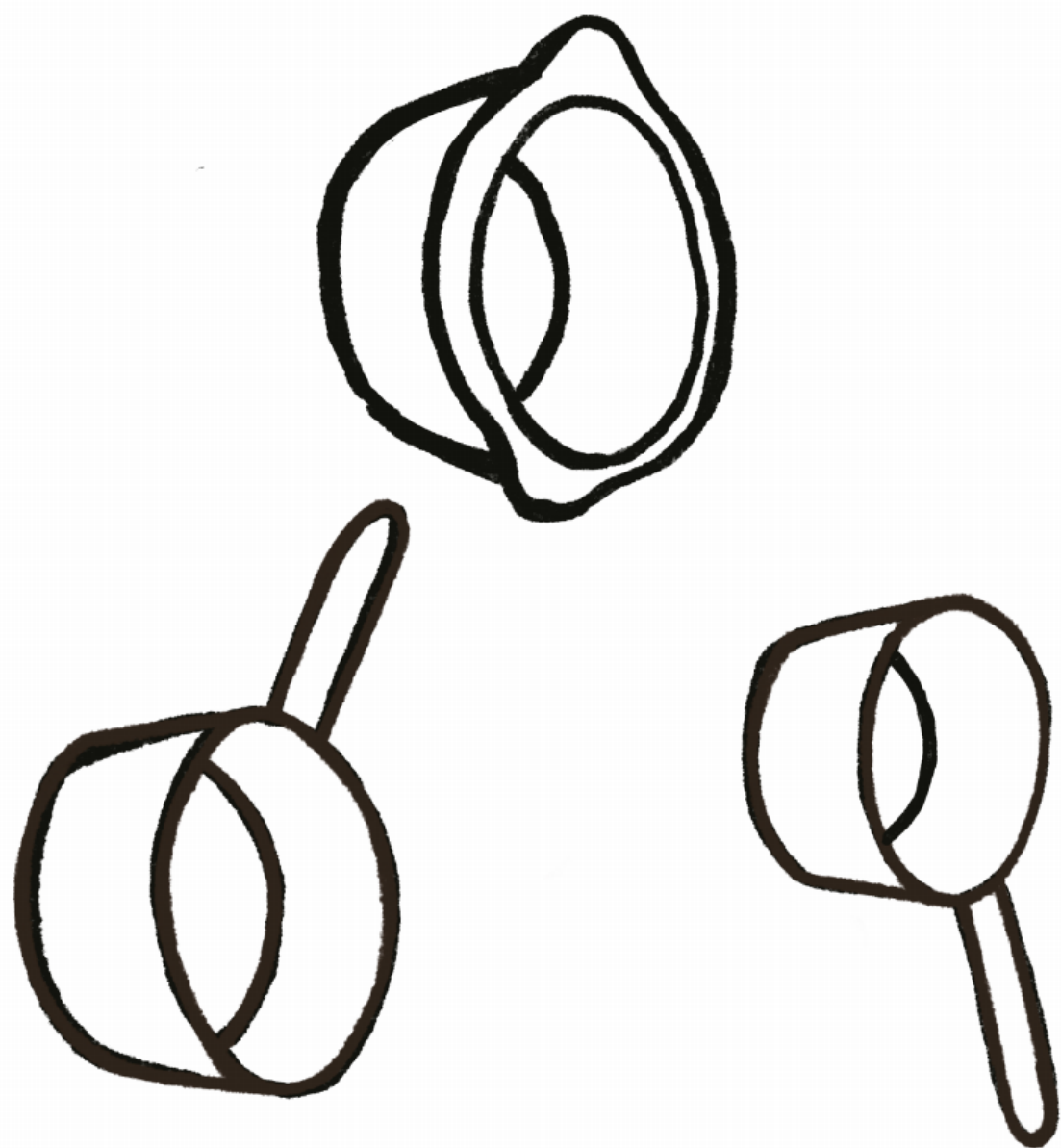
- 8 ½ X 11" printing or Xerox paper
- Heavy card stock or construction paper
- Black marker or pencil
- Colored pencils, markers, crayons, watercolors, paints, brushes – whatever materials you choose for coloring– it's your artwork, your illustration
- Scissors
- Glue, tape, glue stick
- Collage papers, tissue papers, patterned papers to use as patterns or decorative elements in the collage



## STEP BY STEP

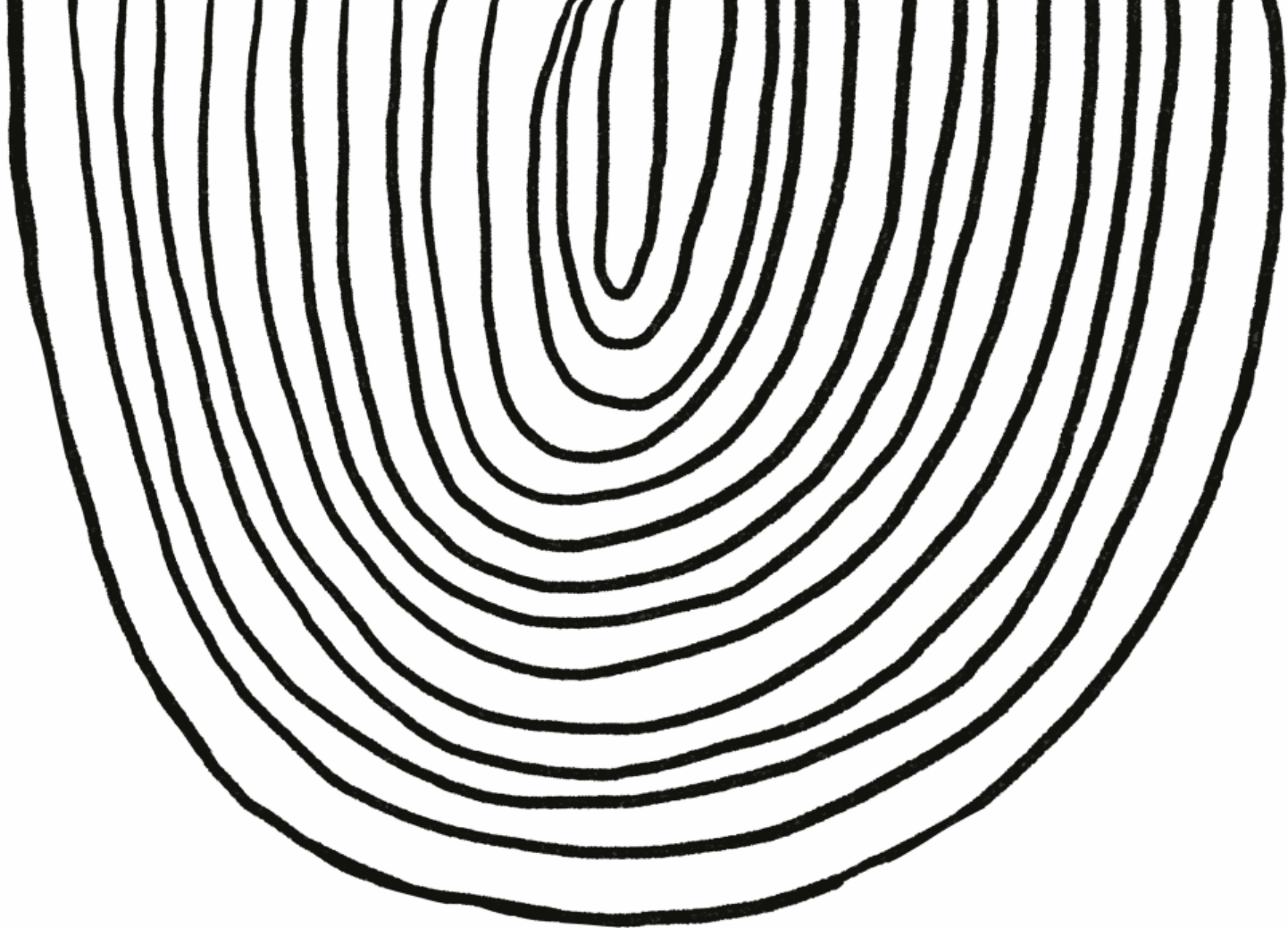
1. Make a large paper 'base', taping together heavy 8 & 1/2 X 11" construction paper to make a 'backdrop' for your collage.
2. Print out the 10 visual elements from Niese's painting & cut out; or draw the 10 visual elements with a thick marker or pencil and cut out on separate sheets of paper; or find and cut-out 10 same basic visual elements from magazine(s) – floor, rug, table, 3 pots or pans, salt shaker and 3 eating utensils.
3. Lay the 'backdrop' on a table; arrange the 10 visual elements on the 'backdrop' but DON'T GLUE THEM DOWN.
4. Ask yourself:
  - Where is this room?
    - Inside a home?
    - A business?
    - A store?
    - A room in a cabin in the woods?
    - A room in a house on Mars?
  - Who's home is it?
  - What other furniture, other elements, are in the room – the space? Who's in the room?
  - Are there animals in the room?
  - What are they doing? What's the story so far?
5. Draw these new elements on separate pieces of paper, cut out and add to the 10 visual elements already arranged on the 'background', creating a 'scene' – but don't glue them down yet on your background.
6. When you think you've added all the visual elements needed to tell your story, color in the elements and (finally) glue down on your background paper.
7. Look at your collage – draw in/add 5 more details on the collage with your black marker or pencil. Color.
8. What's the story? Is this collage the beginning, middle or end of a story?
9. All collages MUST include some form of – either printed, hand drawn or cut out of magazines - those 10 visual elements from Niese's painting.

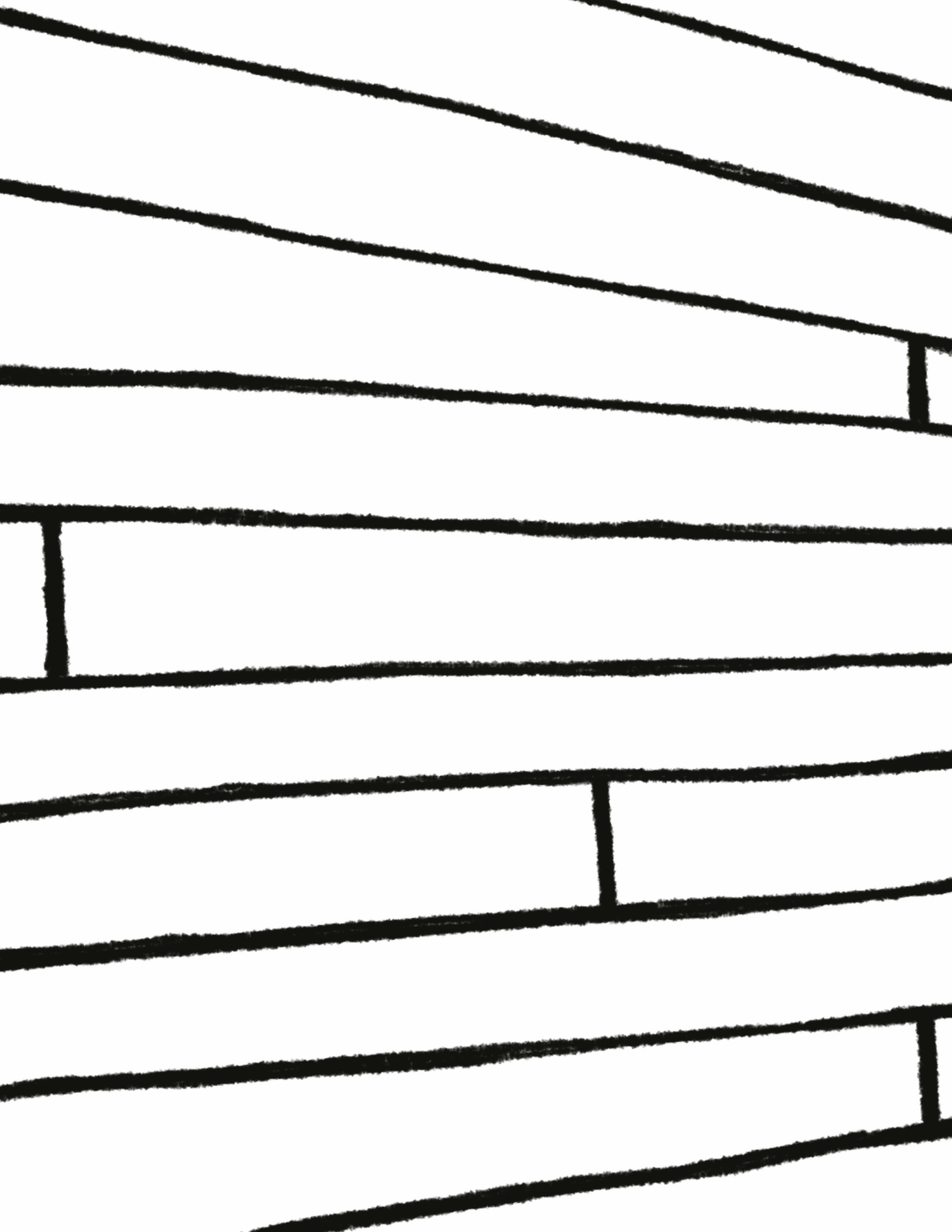














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## TRY THIS!

**After you've created, drawn, cut out, printed out all the elements you need to tell your story, you can make this a 3-D collage by creating a 'Mise-en-Scene'**

- The 'background' paper is the 3-D 'background scenery' for
- your story, or 'play'
- The colored elements can be glued down on small, folded pieces of paper, so they can 'stand-up' and be 'moved around' in front of the 'background scenery'
- If you're motivated, you can tell/act out your story as a 'play' – and have friends, or family, 'be' the different characters in your play.

The Plays the Thing...(hey – who said that?)...

Use your Wild and Crazy Imagination!





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**SEND US A PHOTO OF YOUR CREATION(S), AS WELL AS  
LETTING US KNOW WHAT YOU PUT IN YOUR SCENE,  
AND WHY.**

**WE'D LOVE TO SEE YOUR ART!**

**EMAIL US AT**

**ASSISTANT.PROGRAMS@EVERHART-MUSEUM.ORG**

