

# SECOND SATURDAYS FROM HOME:

## DIY DRAWING TOOLS



Forget crayons and pencils—we'll show you how to create a brand new drawing or painting tool for outdoor art making in this week's Create at Home activity! Gather up some wacky items and see how you can design a brand new way to "make a mark!"

### MATERIALS:

- DIY sidewalk chalk paint\*
- Sidewalk chalk (store bought, or try our DIY recipe\*)
  - Materials found around your house including but not limited to:
    - egg cartons, sponges, plastic containers, broom sticks, twigs, leaves, etc
- Tape, string, glue

\*Follow the simple instructions in [this video](#) to make **DIY Sidewalk Chalk** and **DIY Sidewalk Chalk Paint!**

### HOW TO:

1. Collect your materials! You can create a unique tool from many different materials you have lying around the house—the material list above is just to get you started. What can you find around the house that would make an awesome mark if you dipped it in paint and drew with it? Can you invent a tool that draws a perfect circle? Or a tool that requires you to use both hands at the same time?

2. Here is how to make four drawing tools:



a. **Rainbow Maker:** We wanted to invent a tool that would draw a long rainbow. Taking an egg carton from the recycling bin, we removed the cover and the flap that holds the container closed. Then we cut off the cardboard spikes running down the center of the egg carton and replaced each one with a piece of chalk. To make sure the chalk was securely in place, a piece of string was tied around each piece of chalk. Now we have a tool that can draw 5 lines at the same time!

b. **Chalk Compass:** We wanted to recreate a tool we had seen before, but much larger. A **compass** is a tool used to draw perfect circles. First, we found a twig that was in the shape of a V. Then we used

some string to tie a piece of chalk at the end of one arm. To use this tool to draw really big circles on the ground, plant the side of the twig without chalk on the sidewalk and hold it steady while moving the side with the chalk all the way around to draw a circle!

c. **Fringe Brush:** We found lots of empty berry containers at home made of a stiff, but thin, plastic. We decided to turn them into a big scratchy paintbrush. First, cut off the sides and corners of each container, so you have a flat piece of plastic. Then, cut parallel lines in the plastic to create a fringe, making sure not to cut all the way through the plastic. Leave a half-inch strip of plastic to keep all your fringe connected. Then, roll the strip of fringe up and tape it into a bundle. Use as many berry containers as you like, then tape your fringe bundles together to make a huge "paintbrush". For your handle, look around your house for a stick or pole to attach the brush to. We used a wooden dowel rod that was 4 feet long. Test it out—does your tool make cool scratchy patterns on the sidewalk when you dip it in paint?

d. **Twig Sponge:** We found a kitchen sponge that looked like it would make a cool tool, especially when we put it together with some backyard twigs. First, cut the sponge into  $\frac{1}{2}$  -  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch strips. Then, fold the piece of sponge over the end of the twig and tie it on with a piece of string. You can get several tools from just one sponge. They make great brushes on their own, but to make it more fun, we connected 3 together with tape to create a drawing tool that looks like a fan! Dipped in chalk paint, these tools made awesome splatters and splotches.

3. Now it is your turn! Can you invent a new drawing tool of your own? What kind of marks does your tool make? What kind of materials did you find around the house to turn into new tools?
4. We can't wait to see your creations! Post a picture and tag us @contemporaryATX or use the hashtag #SecondSaturdaysAtHome so we can see your amazing artwork.
5. Learn more about the artwork that inspired this project, Abraham Cruzvillegas' show *Hello, how are you, Gonzo?*, at TheContemporaryAustin.org.



## DID YOU KNOW:

1. When Abraham Cruzvillegas makes art, he doesn't go out to the store and buy all the materials he needs. Instead, he will first take a look around his house and his neighborhood for the materials he needs. So if he wants to make a painting but doesn't have a brush, he might grab a broom, dip it in some paint and use that instead. When creating his show *Hi, how are you, Gonzo?* at the Jones Center, he made sure that the materials used to build the sculptures came from the community instead of from the store. You will often see signs and other recognizable marking on the sculptures from the previous life of that material.
2. Cruzvillegas creates artwork for people to interact with and learn from in his exhibitions. He encourages visitors to touch and climb his sculptures. He also invites educators, musicians, and other community members to perform in the space with his artwork and facilitate workshops where visitors can learn something new. He calls these events "activations". The word **activate** means to make active or engaging! Check out some of the activations he did at The Contemporary in 2019!

