

SECOND SATURDAYS ARE FOR FAMILIES:

SINK OR SWIM – KINETIC SWIMMERS

Splish Splash! This week we are exploring movement and the body with a kinetic sculpture project. Learn how to engineer an aquatic work of art that can actually swim, inspired by [the watchful lifeguard sculpture](#) by duo Elmgreen & Dragset.



Materials:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bouyant container – empty can, plastic bottle, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hot glue gun + glue sticks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 sticks – popsicle sticks or twigs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scissors
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rubber band 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permanent or paint markers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rigid piece of plastic – old gift card, empty berry container, etc. 	

HOW-TO:

1. Begin by gathering your materials!
2. Ask an adult to help glue your swimmer together using a hot glue gun. Plug in the glue gun and wait for it to warm enough to melt the glue sticks. Glue the legs and arms to your buoyant container. Glue arms and legs close enough together (1-3 inches depending on your container size) to ensure the legs and arms will be submerged in the water when swimming.
3. Create the propeller by cutting your rigid piece of plastic into a rectangle to fit in between your swimmers legs. Your propeller should be small enough to turn without hitting your swimmers legs or body.
4. Find a rubber band that fits comfortably around your swimmers legs. **PRO TIP:** If your rubber band is too large, tie a knot in the band to help it fit more snugly.
5. Decorate your swimmer! It is important to use permanent markers or paint markers on your swimmer to ensure your decorations don't wash away as soon as your swimmer enters the water.

6. Your swimmer is ready for the water! Test it out! Place your propeller in between your swimmers legs inside the rubber band loop. Then begin to wind your propeller up. As you turn your propeller you will begin to feel the rubber band tightening up and which makes it tougher to turn the more you wind it up! Once you are ready to release your swimmer, place it in some water, let go and watch it swim away!
7. SHARE YOUR CREATIONS! Show us all the amazing art you are creating by tagging @contemporaryatx #SecondSaturdaysAtHome
8. Learn more about what inspired our art making today – Elmgreen and Dragset's *Watching!*

DID YOU KNOW:



1. This sculpture is 10.5 feet tall! When you approach it at the edge of the water, it is truly life size adding to the feeling of this being a real lifeguard!
2. This sculpture was made by two artists named Michael Elmgreen and Ingar Dragset. This artist duo makes all of their artwork collaboratively, or together. Have you have made a collaborative work of art with a friend or family member?
3. This artist duo has many different interests; therefore, they make lots of different art! Not only do they make sculptures but they are also interested in performance art and have created their own theatre play!