

SECOND SATURDAYS FROM HOME: MATERIAL EXPLORATION: CARDBOARD

MATERIALS:

- Cardboard
- Egg Carton
- Paper Towel Roll
- Scissors
- Tape or Glue



Here are some tips and tricks to inspire you the next time you decide to make art using one of the most common and familiar materials – cardboard!

How to:

1. **Corrugated cardboard** is the most common type of cardboard—most packages and moving boxes are made from it. Corrugated cardboard is made up of 3 layers of thick paper. The top and bottom layer are smooth but the middle layer is wavy. This makes the cardboard very strong. Here are some things you can do with corrugated cardboard:
 - a. Reveal the center corrugated layer for a cool texture and to make your cardboard easy to bend. Starting at the edge of the piece of cardboard, gently peel away the tough top layer of paper. Once the thickest part of the paper is peeled away, using your fingers or scissors, cut any remaining thin paper in between the waves in the cardboard. Not only is this a cool texture to explore in your art, it also makes the cardboard easier to bend and sculpt.
 - b. To create a sharp angle in your cardboard, cut along the corrugated lines in the cardboard where you want the cardboard to bend. The cut line should not go all the way to the edge of your piece of cardboard. It should just be in the middle about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch from each edge.
 - c. There are many ways to create secure connections between two pieces of cardboard. Here are a few:
 - The simplest way is to cut a slit into the edge of two pieces of cardboard. The length of this cut will depend on the size of your

piece of cardboard and your sculpture design. Holding your two pieces of cardboard in different directions, slide the two cuts into each other and push them firmly together. Use tape or glue to help hold the connection in place.

- To stand one piece of cardboard up in the middle of another, begin by cutting a slit in one piece of cardboard where you would like the second piece of cardboard to stand. Cut a tab, or a rectangle, that sticks out at the edge of the second piece of cardboard where you would like to secure it to the first piece of cardboard. Slide the tab into the cut on the first piece of cardboard and secure the tab with tape or glue on the back. **PRO TIP:** If your two pieces of cardboard are floppy and you want them to stand up firmly, create a support by cutting two corner triangles from a new piece of cardboard. Tape or glue each triangle where your two pieces of cardboard meet, making sure to secure both of the pieces of cardboard to the two sides of the triangle support.

- d. To add a fun texture to the edge of a piece of cardboard, cut lines into the edge to create a fringe. Lines cut close together will create a soft fringe and lines cut farther apart will create a stiff fringe. This texture can be used to create many different types of effects in sculptures. **PRO TIP:** you can also use fringe to connect two pieces of cardboard as well. Cut a fringe into the edge and bend every tab in alternating directions (i.e one forward, one back, one forward, one back, etc.) and secure the tabs to a second piece of cardboard.
2. **Carton** is another very common type of cardboard. Toilet paper and paper towel rolls are made from carton. Here are some tips and tricks to using this type of cardboard.
 - a. These cylinders often have a spiral seam running down the length of the tube. If you start to tear the cylinder along the spiral, you can unravel the tube and create a curly piece of cardboard!
 - b. To attach a cylinder to another flat piece of cardboard securely, cut 6-8 lines into one end of the tube, just like fringe. Bend each one of the tabs you created at the end of the tube out so it resembled a little squid or octopus. Tape or glue those tabs flat to the surface of another piece of cardboard.
 3. **Egg cartons** are made from a paper material also similar to cardboard. Although egg carton is a thick material, it is very soft and can be ripped very easily using just your hands. Sections of the egg containers can be broken down into groups to create different shapes.
 4. **SHARE YOUR CREATIONS!** Show us all the amazing art you are creating by tagging [@contemporaryatx](#) [#SecondSaturdaysAtHome](#).