

CREATE AT HOME: NANCY HOLT'S BIRTHDAY CAKE



This month, we are celebrating artist Nancy Holt and her sculpture, *Time Span*. Using unconventional art making materials, design and build a birthday cake for the artist!

MATERIALS:

- Cardboard
- Spackle, joint compound, OR royal icing
- Tape
- Plastic ziplock bag
- Cake decorating bag (optional)
- Sequins, sprinkles, or glitter (optional)
- Paint (optional)

Recipe for royal icing:

- 4 cups of powdered sugar
- 3 Tablespoons of meringue powder
- 10 Tablespoons of water

Mix these three ingredients together in a bowl, adding more water as needed.

Disclaimer: Use caution using spackle or joint compound. Avoid contact with eyes, nose, or mouth. Do NOT eat. It may contain harmful ingredients.

HOW TO:

These instructions include information about the materials found in the Create At Home kit distributed by the museum, as well as materials found around the home.

1. If you picked up a kit from the museum, you will have a long strip of cardboard. If you are using materials at home, find a cardboard box to cut a long strip from. Holding one end of the strip of cardboard, carefully wrap the cardboard around itself and roll up the length of the cardboard. Do this until you have created a cylinder - the shape of a birthday cake.
2. Tape the end of your cardboard strip to secure it in place. Secure your cake form to the gold cake pan in your kit. If working from cardboard at home, cut a piece of cardboard into a circle about 2 inches wider than your cake form. Secure cake form to cardboard circle.
PRO TIP: One way to attach your cake form to your cake circle is to add a small amount of icing or joint compound onto your cardboard base that you are working on. Gently place your cake on top of it and press down. This will hold your cake in place while you work. You could also use tape!
3. Kits from the museum will have a plastic bag with joint compound in it. **DO NOT eat joint compound!** This material is used for drywall and may contain harmful ingredients. If you are working with supplies from home, you can find joint compound at your local hardware store or you can whip up some icing and scoop it into a ziplock bag.

4. To create smooth and thin decorative lines, cut a small hole in one bottom corner of your ziplock bag. Now you can begin squeezing out icing or joint compound onto your cardboard cake!
5. To create textured cake decorations, use a cake decorating bag with a shaped nozzle. Cut a hole in the bottom corner of your ziplock bag. Then insert your ziplock bag into the cake decorating bag with the open corner pointing downward into the tip. Now you can begin icing your cardboard cake with a new shape!
PRO TIP: As you ice your birthday cake, be mindful of the textures and shapes you are creating. Notice how squeezing the plastic bag different ways can change how your icing turns out. Have a great time experimenting like a true baker!
6. If you have sequins, glitter, or sprinkles, add them onto your icing or joint compound while wet so they will stick.
7. Once you have finished working, allow 24 hours for your cake to completely dry.
8. When your project is dry, you can add color with paint, markers, pens, or crayons.
9. For more cake decorating tips and inspiration, check out a video of art educator Emma Garcia creating her own birthday cake for Nancy Holt at thecontemporaryaustin.org.
10. Share what you made! Tag us [@contemporaryATX](https://www.instagram.com/contemporaryATX) or use the hashtag [#SecondSaturdaysAtHome](https://www.instagram.com/SecondSaturdaysAtHome) so we can see your amazing artwork!

DID YOU KNOW:



- Nancy Holt's *Time Span* lives in the lower grounds of Laguna Gloria. This sculpture is site specific. That means the location of this sculpture was determined very carefully. Every year on April 5th, Nancy Holt's birthday, sunlight shines through a hole in the sculpture to highlight a plaque on the ground inscribed with the artwork's date of completion, also April 5. This artwork can help us reflect on the passing of time and the changes in our surroundings.
- Holt was a pioneer in Land Art who sought to integrate art with the landscape and explore the potential of the American West.