

ARTS HEALTH ACTIVITY

Create a three-dimensional cardboard sculpture inspired by *The Red Guard*, by Christopher Hodges.



The Red Guard, 2005, by Christopher Hodges
from the Maitland Regional Art Gallery Collection

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This art making activity promotes experimentation, lateral thinking and creativity. The activity is designed to be used with an accompanying video or on its own.

Have a long look



Christopher Hodges, *The Red Guard*, 2005, synthetic polymer on cardboard, 244 x 244 x 122cm. Maitland Regional Art Gallery Collection

Take your time to have a look at *The Red Guard* by Christopher Hodges. It is a large sculpture made with cardboard and paint.

You might like to think about and discuss the following questions. Please keep in mind there are no right or wrong answers and feel encouraged to come up with some imaginative responses.

- Why do you think the work is titled 'The Red Guard'?
- Does the title affect the way you interpret the work?
- What does the shape of the sculpture make you think of?
- Does it look rough or smooth to touch?
- Does it look heavy or light?
- Do you think this work would be best experienced inside a gallery or outside in a landscape?
- This sculpture is over 2 metres tall, do you think the size of the work adds meaning?
- Do you like the artwork? Why? Why not?
- What's one word you would use to describe this sculpture?

Let's Get Creative

What you will need for this art making activity:

Thin cardboard or coloured card, glue stick, scissors, coloured paper or paint, objects to trace around

You might like to experiment with all or some of the following paint applications.

1



Step 1.

- Gather your materials and make sure you have a nice clear space to work in.

2



Step 2.

Lay your cardboard flat on the table and begin to draw some large irregular shapes on the surface. If you aren't sure where to start, roughly tracing around different found objects can be a good way to create interesting shapes, and you can customise or adjust the shapes later.

Step 3.

Add some colour! You could either paint your shapes, or glue them onto coloured paper. If you are using coloured paper trace around your shape and then flip over the shape to trace a mirror image, then cut out both shapes and glue together making sure to take the glue right up to the edges. If you are painting make sure to colour both sides. You might choose to just use one colour, or a range of different colours for different shapes.



3



4

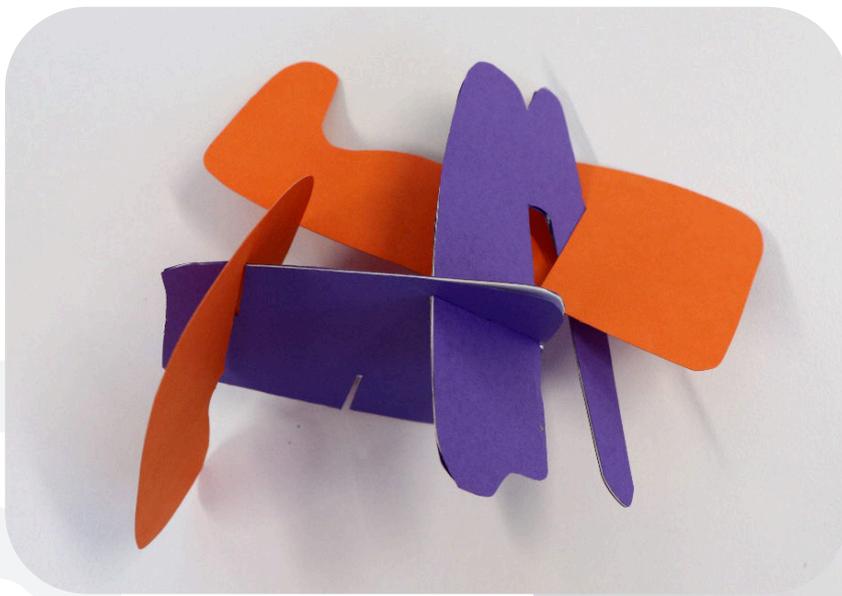


Step 4.

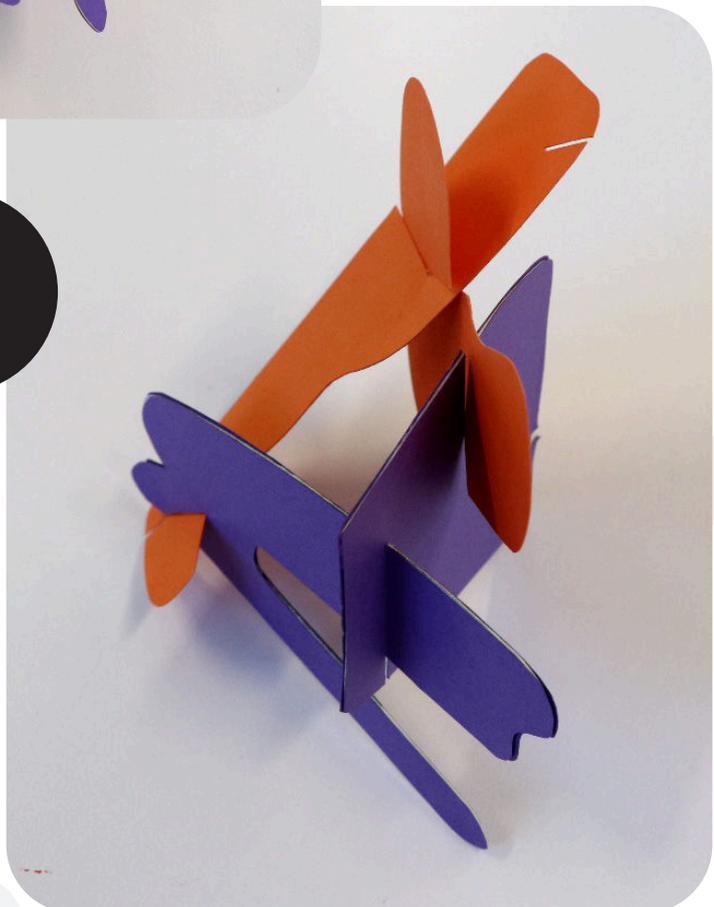
Cut three thin 2mm wide by 1.5 centimetre long slots into the edges of your shapes, these can be randomly placed and at varying angles, as pictured above.

Step 5.

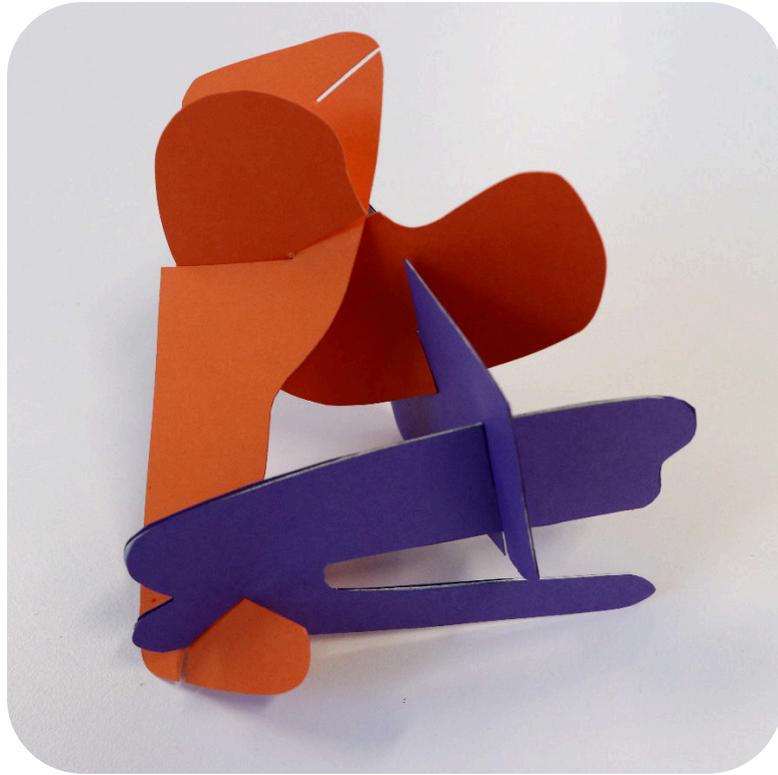
Begin to create a 3D sculpture by slotting the shapes into one another. Play around with which shapes go where until you are happy with your result! You can make dozens of variations and combinations of sculptures.



5



Reflection



Take some time to have a good look at your artwork once you feel it's complete. You might like to reflect on some of the following questions:

- What title will you give your art work?
- Do you think your sculpture would work if it was created again on a larger scale?
- How many shapes make up your overall sculpture?

Extra



Using coloured pencils do some sketches of your sculpture, you might like to do a series of sketches, looking at the sculpture from different angles.

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