

NSU ART MUSEUM FORT LAUDERDALE

Frank Stella 3-D Paper Collage

At-Home Art Activity

Inspiration for your imagination:
Frank Stella - *Hacilar Level III*, 2000

Frank Stella was born in Malden, Massachusetts, in 1936. After graduating from Princeton University in 1958 with a degree in history, he moved to New York to pursue an art career. Stella has stated that artists are faced with two questions: “What to paint” and “How to paint it.” Although he decided to paint abstractly from the beginning, he has chosen to paint in a variety of ways over the years. He used abstract expressionistic brushstrokes in his earliest paintings, but by late 1958 he changed his technique to paint flat black stripes in an all over pattern. With these minimal paintings he aimed to eliminate pictorial illusion so that the image appeared as flat as the canvas on which he painted. Stella also shaped his canvases and constructed his paintings into three-dimensional structures using an array of materials, including metal, wood, and plastic. By the late 1980s, his paintings became fully three-dimensional and could be considered “maximalist” in stark contrast to the “minimalist” paintings of his early career. His work *Hacilar Level III*, 2000, is a painting on a textured surface that Stella cast from molten aluminum. The dimensional surface introduces real space rather than the illusion of space into his painting.



Frank Stella, *Hacilar Level III*, 2000. NSU Art Museum Fort Lauderdale; gift of Dick and Jane Stoker

Art vocabulary:

Minimalism - An art movement that began in the 1960s in the United States typically using geometric shapes in an abstract manner.

Abstract Art - The use of visual design elements, such as line, shape, form and color to create 2-D compositions or 3-D sculptures independent from any association with recognizable elements.

Abstract Expressionism - A post World War II American art movement characterized by diverse styles and techniques emphasizing an artist's portrayal of emotions, attitudes and feelings through nontraditional and nonrepresentational means.

Illusion - A deceptive appearance or impression.

Materials:

- Assorted paper - construction paper and or card stock
- Scissors (to be used with adult supervision)
- Glue sticks or white glue such as Elmer's
- Stapler
- Tape
- Hole puncher
- Markers, crayons and or colored pencils
- Covering for your work surface

Instructions:

Step 1 - Always use a protective cover for your work surface. Several layers of newspaper, brown paper or a plastic tablecloth work well. Select a piece of paper for the base of your Frank Stella 3-D paper collage.



Step 2 – Draw an assortment of designs and patterns on some of the other paper being used for your project.



Step 3 – Cut out an assortment of shapes and strips from solid color sheets of paper as well as any patterned papers you have created. Add punched holes to some shapes to enhance those shapes and add different types of patterns.



Step 4 - By folding and bending the paper shapes and attaching them to the base paper, using glue, tape or a stapler, you can make them stand up from the flat surface.



Step 5 - Continue to add more paper pieces until you are happy with the composition.



Step 6 - The final art piece may be hung on the wall, so it protrudes into space as so many of Frank Stella's works do. He considered his own 3-D works paintings despite their sculptural qualities.



Variations and adaptations:

A variation of this project is to create a totally flat collage, using colored paper shapes mixed with patterned paper shapes, similar to Frank Stella's flat collage work.

*If you have any questions about these art activities
please e-mail Sue at: sgirardisw@moafl.org
Now in her garage making art!

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