the art of EDUCATION | Lesson Plan

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Form

“Paper Mache Animal Trophies”

Objective: Create an animal head trophy using paper mache sculpture techniques.

Materials

- Newspaper and Masking Tape
- Paper Mache Paste
- Patterned Scrapbooking Paper
- Materials for details: flat marbles, faux fur, etc…
- Cardboard and Hot Glue Gun
- Mod Podge or other sealing product

Motivation

- Begin by looking at the traditional views and history of taxidermy.
- Compare and contrast this to contemporary versions of animal head trophies such as Andreas Scheiger’s faux taxidermy heads or thesepopular cardboard versions.

Step 1: Sketch and Create Form

Students should brainstorm and sketch what forms make up their chosen animal head. Quick sketches on newsprint do the trick

After sketching, move on to building the form out of crumpled newspaper and securing it with masking tape.

Add a cardboard mount at the bottom of the neck so the animal head can lay flat against the wall when displayed.

Step 2: Paper Mache

After the armature is built from newspaper and masking tape, begin the paper mache process. Be sure to leave a day of drying time in between each layer (2-3 layers is sufficient). The last layer (3rd or 4th layer) should be small torn pieces of patterned paper.

Step 3: Add Details and Seal

Once the last layer of patterned paper is dry, students should finish their pieces with a sealer to ensure all paper pieces stay smooth and flat. Additional features like flat marble eyes or faux fur manes can be glued on using a hot glue gun.

Tip: Adding patterned paper as the last layer of the paper mache process speeds up the project immensely since no primer or paint is needed. No fancy patterned paper? Old sheet music, newspaper or even paper towels can make great substitutions.

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