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Circle Wall Sculpture

This low-relief sculpture spins the principles of design around in circles!

The circle has had a distinguished role in the art and written language of every culture since the beginning of mankind — symbolizing infinity, perfection, unity, and completeness. Stonehenge is arranged in a circle. The circle appears in ancient Greece as a labyrinth, in Christian Art as a halo and a rose window, in China as the yin-yang symbol, in Mayan culture as the Zodiac, in Buddhism as the Mandala, and in Native American symbolism as the four elements, the sun, or the moon. A modern example is the Olympic logo — the five circles represent five continents harmoniously joined and perfectly balanced.

Just as a circle describes a state of unity and completeness, there are principles that can be relied upon to produce integrality in the varied elements of visual art.

A simple grouping of rings and circles demonstrates how these principles work together to make a harmonious low-relief sculpture:

- The **balance** of an asymmetrical composition, organized so the circles overlap and join with each other
- The colors, textures, and designs that place **emphasis** on a part or parts of the sculpture
- The repetition of **patterns** in the paper and circles that produce an organized visual **rhythm**
- The variety of shapes and sizes, all circular, that guide the viewer through and around the sculpture, creating **movement** and **unity** that make the art complete and compelling

Using flat natural reeds and assorted papers, students first create rings in a variety of sizes, then assemble their sculptures by gluing and creating small "slots" to fit the rings together.

GRADES 5-12 Note: Instructions and materials are based upon a class size of 24 students. Adjust as needed.

Materials (required)

Natural Reed for Basketmaking, 3/8" flat, 175 ft coil (60961-1038); share one among class

Assorted color papers, recommend:

Shizen Decorative Paper Screen Print Assortment Packs, 8-1/2" x 11", package of 18 sheets (12293-)

Blick® Construction Paper, 9" x 12", assorted package of 50 sheets (11409-1003)

Hygloss™ Metallic Foil Paper, 8-1/2" x 10", package of 24 sheets (11205-1002)

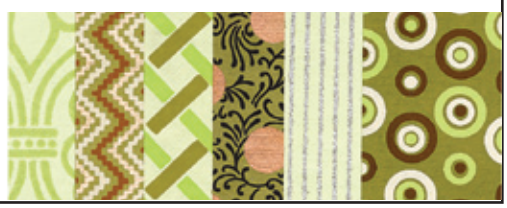
Blick® Matte Acrylics, 2 oz assorted colors (00727-); share at least three bottles across class

Snippy® Scissors, pointed (57040-2005); need one per student

Elmer's® Carpenter's Wood Glue, 4 oz (23893-1004); share three bottles across class

Elmer's® School Glue Naturals, 4 oz (24233-1004); share four bottles across class

Creativity Street® Large Wooden Spring Clothespins, package of 50 (62144-1338); share 4 packages across class



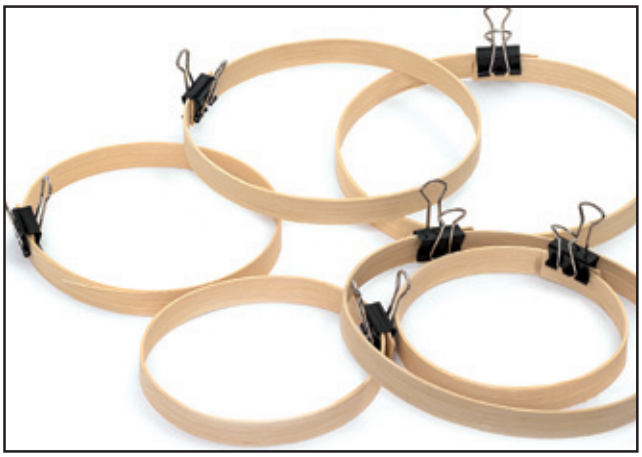
Preparation

1. Cut dry reeds into assorted lengths.

Process

1. Create circles with various lengths of reed. Overlap the ends and join them with a strong glue. Hold the ends in place with a clip or clothespin until the glue is completely set, then remove.
2. The reed circles may be painted with acrylic colors, or left natural.
3. Select papers, choosing harmonious colors and patterns. Place white glue on the top side of a ring, then turn the ring over and place it glue-side-down on a piece of paper. Repeat with more rings, but leave some of the rings uncovered.
4. When the glue is dry, trim the paper along the edge of the ring.
5. Assemble the sculpture. For best results, plan the arrangement of the rings prior to gluing.

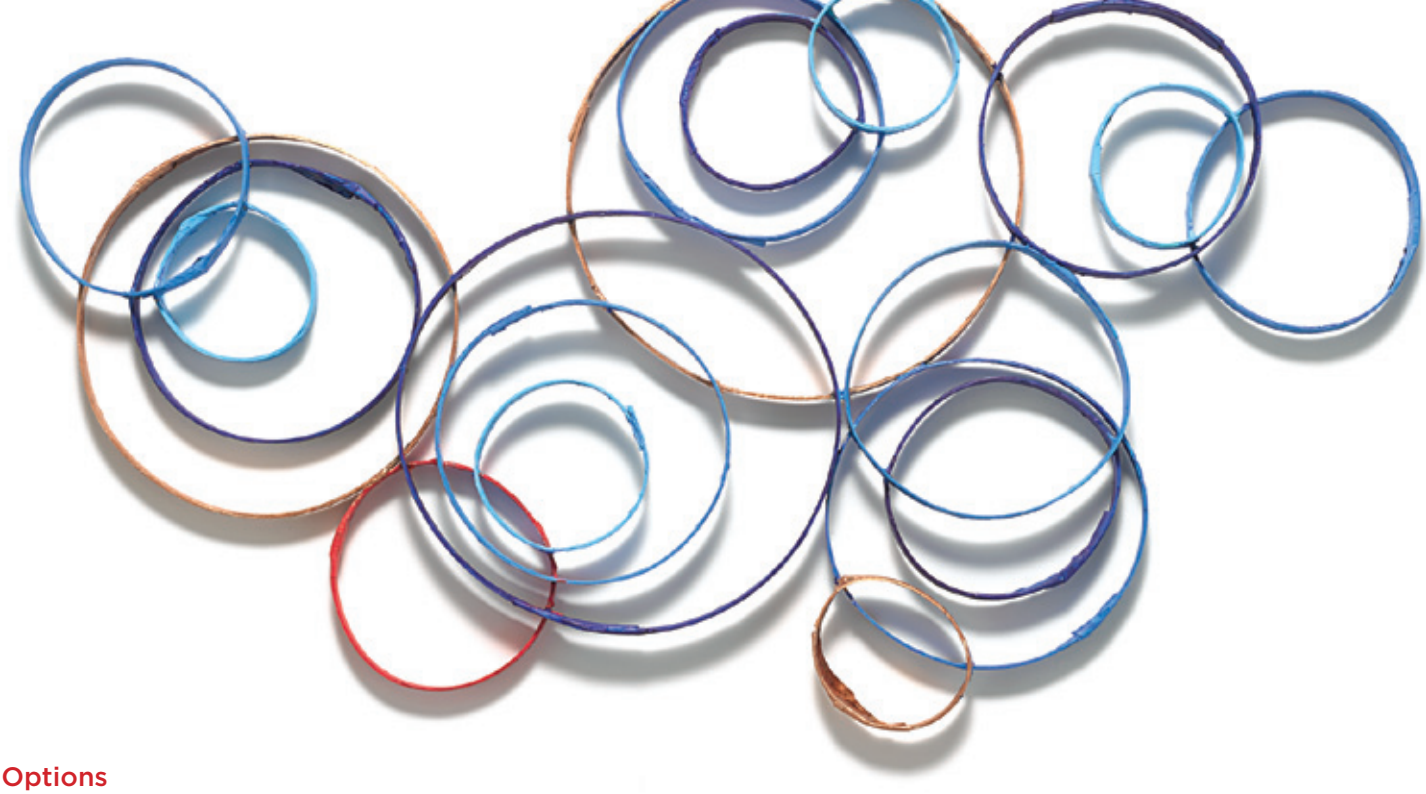
   Some rings may be layered over paper-covered rings and glued directly to them. Others can be joined reed to reed by creating small "snips" with scissors. Make small cuts with pointed scissors, no more than half the width of the reed. Create matching cuts where the next ring will align. Place a drop of glue into the cuts and fit the rings together.



Step 1: *Create a variety of rings with flat reed. Glue the ends and hold them together with a clip until the glue has dried. Paint or leave natural.*

Step 2: *Glue the rings to a variety of papers. Allow the glue to dry, then trim the paper along the edges of the ring.*

Step 3: *Assemble the sculpture by gluing the rings to paper. Small "snips" can be created to join the rings reed-to-reed.*



Options

1. Cover the rings with fabric, burlap, photos, wire mesh, or recycled cards. Or paint and assemble the rings without any covering.

National Standards for Visual Arts Education

Content Standard #2 — Using knowledge of structures and functions
5-8 • Students select and use the qualities of structures and functions of art to improve communication of their ideas.
9-12 • Students create artworks that use organizational principles and functions to solve specific visual arts problems.

Content Standard #4 — Understanding the visual arts in relation to history and cultures.
5-8 • Students describe and place a variety of art objects in historical and cultural contexts.
9-12 • Students describe the function and explore the meaning of specific art objects within varied cultures, times, and places

Watch the Lesson at:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AkRLeRWCJNw&feature=youtu.be