

# 3D ART SCULPTURE

## FOUND OBJECT ASSEMBLAGE PROJECT



**ASSEMBLAGE**  
FOUND OBJECT & RECYCLED ART

**LOOK BETWEEN THE LINES**  
BY WHITNEY PANETTA

**ARTIST RESEARCH**  
JOHN DAHLSEN

As you start brainstorming ideas for your assemblage, check out art by artist John Dahlson. Check out some of his artwork here: <https://www.pinterest.com/whitneypanetta-look-john-dahlson/>. Check out his website here: <https://john.dahlson.com/>. Check out his Instagram here: <https://www.instagram.com/johndahlson78/>. After learning about him and looking at his artwork, answer the questions below.

What facts you learned about artist, John Dahlson:

Where is his art out of and where does he find his materials?

Describe it below:

ASSEMBLAGE RUBRIC

CATEGORY	POSSIBLE POINTS	COMMENTS	SCORE
Material: You were creative in selecting and incorporating your material into your work of art.	20		
Design: Has an interesting design, creative, you thought how to use the material in a different way. The material enhances the design. The design is balanced, unified, and has a strong focal point.	25		
Composition & Construction: It is well made, materials are well attached, strong visual composition, good focal point. Clean construction.	20		

FOUND OBJECT ASSEMBLAGE PROJECT  
CLASS, SMALL GROUP, OR INDIVIDUAL PROJECT

# RECYCLED ART FOCUSED PROJECT



This sculpture lesson is geared towards 5th grade (class project), through 12th grade art students.



**A focus on Earth friendly art projects using found materials, trash, and recyclables.**



National US art standards for 4th-9th grade.



**2 research & brainstorm guides, 2 critique activities**

# WHAT YOU GET

## Lesson pack includes:

- ✓ In depth lesson plan (6 pages)
- ✓ 2 Project presentations (65 slides)
- ✓ Artist research activity (2 pages)
- ✓ Brainstorm activity (2 pages)
- ✓ In-progress critique (3 pages)
- ✓ Final critique (2 pages)
- ✓ Project rubric (1 page)

### ASSEMBLAGE FOUND OBJECT & RECYCLED ART

- BIG IDEA:**
- Found object and recycled art
- ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS:**
- What can you use to create a work of art?
  - How is your artwork or materials impacting the environment?
  - How can you create a focal point within your work of art?
- OBJECTIVES:** Students will...
- Learn about assemblage, found object, and recycle focused artwork.
  - Look and discuss artwork by Tara Donovan and John Dahlson.
  - Work individually or in groups to brainstorm inspiration for their work.
  - Collect

### ARTIST RESEARCH JOHN DAHLSEN

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Check out his website here: <https://johndahlson.com/>  
Checkout his Instagram here: <https://www.instagram.com/johndahlson/>  
After learning about him and looking at his artwork, answer the questions below.

1. Share 3 facts you learned about artist, John Dahlson.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What does he create his art out of and where does he find his materials?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Check out his plastic bag series here: <https://johndahlson.com/recycled-plastic-bags-art/>  
Select the one you like best. Describe it below:  
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\_\_\_\_\_
4. What about that piece grabs your attention?  
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\_\_\_\_\_
5. Why do you think it's successful?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# LESSON PLAN & TEACHER NOTES:

- BIG IDEA
- ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS,
- US NATIONAL STANDARDS
- STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS
- TEACHING TIPS

& MORE!

## ASSEMBLAGE FOUND OBJECT & RECYCLED ART

### BIG IDEA:

- Found object and recycled art

### ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS:

- What can you use to create a work of art?
- How is your artwork or materials impacting the environment?
- How can you create a focal point within your work of art?

### OBJECTIVES: Students will...

- Learn about assemblage, found objects
- Look at examples of assemblage art
- Work on a project inspired by assemblage art
- Collect materials for their project
- Create a focal point in their project
- Participate in a discussion about their project

### STANDARD Elementary School Designed for group project

- ART:
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- Review the project guidelines and grading expectations before covering what they are working on today.
- Pass out the artist research activity first, once students complete it pass out the brainstorm sheet. Grade both as a participation grade.
- Have students work on the activities for the rest of class. Before class ends emphasize the need to bring materials in as soon as possible, ideally by the end of the week.
- Have students clean up the last few minutes of class.

### DAY 2: Project Steps

- Start by opening the day 2 PowerPoint.
- Engage students in a discussion as you move through the slides and answer any questions that arise.
  - Review what an assemblage is.
  - Review the project guidelines.
  - Review what they are currently working on, the artist research activity and brainstorm sheet. They must complete 3 sketches before starting on the project.
  - Go over the project steps. While they are collecting materials they can work on preparing the wood panel base.
- Have students play with composition options before starting their project.

6 PAGES

# INTRODUCTION TO ASSEMBLAGE, ARTIST EXEMPLAR, PROJECT OVERVIEW

**Your Project**

- You will create your own assemblage.
- You will either work in pairs or individually.
- Brainstorm ideas for found materials to use to create your work of art.
- You will attach the found objects to a wood panel to showcase your design.
- You can manipulate your materials, cut it up, paint it, tear it, and similar.

What is an assemblage?

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Arti

Student Examples

Try to guess the materials used.

Student Examples

Try to guess the material!

Student Examples

- Seashells.
- There is a strong connection between the wave shape and the object.
- The larger shell creates a good focal point.
- Tips to improve: The blue background doesn't help unify the shells.



# PRESENTATION 1:

ASSEMBLAGE INTRO, STUDENT EXAMPLES, PROJECT INFO

## ARTIST RESEARCH JOHN DAHLSSEN

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After learning about him and looking at his artwork, answer the questions below.

1. Share 3 facts you learned about artist, John Dahlsen:

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2. What does he create his art out of and where does he find his materials?

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3. Check out his plastic bag series here: <https://johndahlsen.com/recycled-plastic-bags-art/>  
Select the one you like best. Describe it below:

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4. What about that piece grabs your attention?

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## PROJECT BRAINSTORM FOUND OBJECT ASSEMBLAGE

Before you start on your assemblage you need to think through and plan your work of art. Consider what materials you have access to in large quantities. Consider what material will work well attaching to the wood panel. List and sketch out material and design ideas.

1. List materials you think would work well for your project. Think about materials you can get in larger quantities (paper, bottle tops, cardboard, plastic, and similar).

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2. Where can you collect materials from?

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3. Does your material have an environmental impact? For example, using materials that can't be recycled or bringing attention to recyclables and trash.

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4. How can you manipulate the material (consider color organization like John Dahlsen, using neutral items such as Tara Donovan, or painting, cutting, or similar the material).

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6. Do you want to create an abstract work of art (a focus on line, shape, color, texture, rather than an actual object) or representational art (a recognizable object or shape)?

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7. Do you plan to paint the wood panel? If so, what colors are you considering and how will they work with the materials you are using?

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8. What additional supplies do you need?

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LIST IT List ideas, materials, supplies, colors, and similar you may want to use.	SKETCH IT Sketch out design and composition ideas.
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# 2 PREP ACTIVITIES:

## ARTIST RESEARCH & BRAINSTORMING



Single layer



Multiple layers



Cardboard as base



Single layer over cardboard



Multiple layers over cardboard

# STEP BY STEP INSTRUCTIONS WITH VISUALS & TEXT

## Composition Ideas:

**Your Project, Step One:**

- Research another artist, from Dürer to your favorite.
- Brainstorm your work of art:
  - Plan what materials you have access to and can get in large quantities.
  - You will get a 24"x36" wood panel or similar, to be about the color you want the base to be (you can also leave it natural wood color).
  - Think about the composition and focal point.
  - Do you want to go for an abstract style like Tom Dorvan or John Garbman or reflect a recognizable subject to your artwork?

**Step Two: Gather Supplies**

- Once you complete your artist research, brainstorm activity, and at least 2 sketches start gathering supplies.
- Either bring in materials or collect materials if they are available to collect in school (examples, recycle bins for plastic bottles, tops, and similar, library for discarded books and newspapers, and similar).

**Step Three: Prep the Base**

- While you are waiting on materials, think about your base.
- Are you painting or altering the wood panel base?
- Do you want to layer on the back of the panel and create an assemblage that goes to the edge of the panel?
- Work on painting your panel.
- If needed, sketch lines on the panel to know where to place your materials.

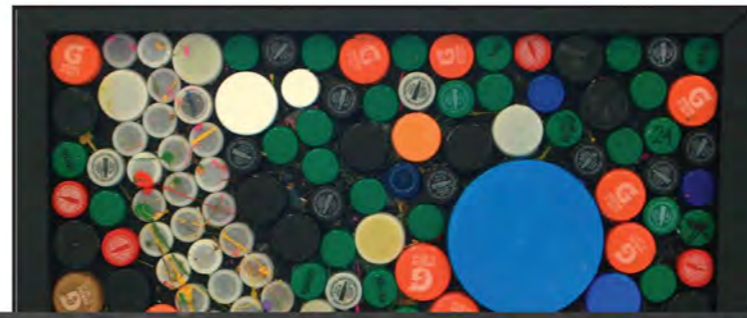
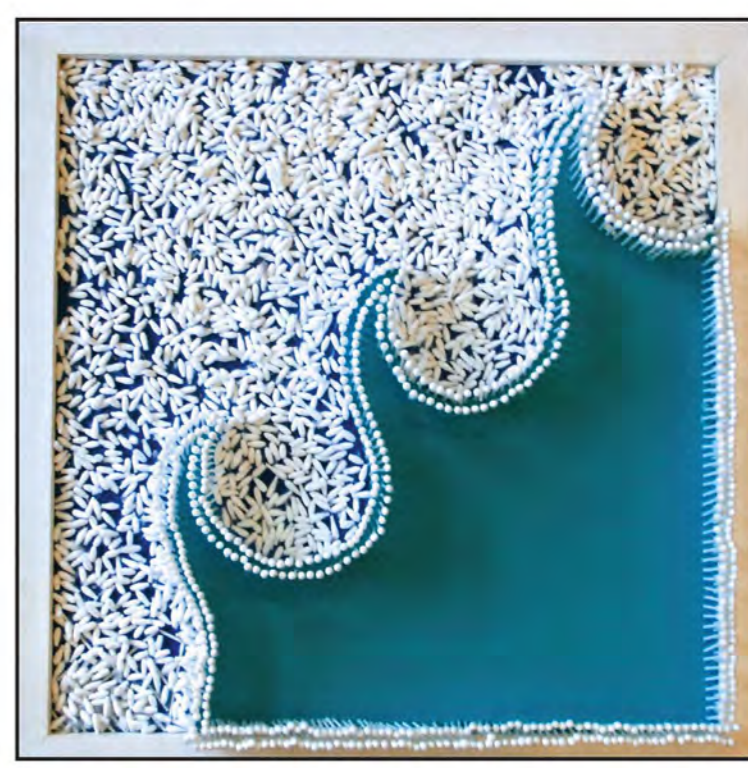
**Step Six: Attach Material**

- Using hot glue, nails, heavy duty glue, string, and similar start attaching your material to the wood panel.
- Example: After experimenting with various compositions I decided I liked the cardboard I used to store paint bottles caps on as a base. I also liked a single layer of bottle caps with a few layered on top. I used hot glue to attach the cardboard to the panel and the bottle caps to the panel.

**Step Seven: Finalize**

- Step back and look at your work of art as you add to it.
- Does it feel balanced?
- Is there a section of the work that interests you?
- Does it feel finished?

# PRESENTATION 2: STEP BY STEP INSTRUCTIONS, PROJECT DETAILS, & MORE



STUDENT EXAMPLES:



# BUYERS LOVE MY ART LESSONS:



"This was so helpful to my students! The PowerPoint along with it was such a great resource and I will definitely be using this every year!"



"My students really enjoyed using this lesson. Something unique and engaging."

# CHECK OUT MORE PRODUCTS:

Check out more projects for elementary through high school students.

Grab early finishers for those quick artists or an entire curriculum so you can focus on teaching.

**ART ELEMENTARY**  
DRAPED COIL BOWL PROJECT

INTRO TO COILS:  
LESSON PLAN, HANDOUTS, CHECKLIST, EARLY FINISHER, PRESENTATION

**3D ART SCULPTURE & CERAMICS**  
REED + TISSUE PAPER LANTERN

WHEEL THROWING + RAKU FIRING:  
LESSON PLAN, 3 PRESENTATIONS, PROJECT HANDOUT, RUBRIC

**ACTIVITY ELEMENTS OF ART**  
7 WORKSHEETS ELEMENTS OF ART

FRONT & BACK WORKSHEETS WITH ACTIVITIES & DIGITAL FILL IN OPTIONS

**CLAY PROJECT**  
PINCH POT & COIL CLAY BELL

SCULPTURE & CERAMICS:  
LESSON PLAN, 2 PRESENTATIONS, HANDOUTS, CRITIQUE, VIDEO, & MORE

**3D ART SCULPTURE & CERAMICS**  
FOOD TRADITIONS PROJECT

SLUMP SLAB & STAMP PROJECT:  
LESSON PLAN, PRESENTATION, PROJECT HANDOUT, RUBRIC

**CLAY PROJECT**  
CLAY VESSEL TEXTURE & FORM FOCUS

SCULPTURE & CERAMICS:  
LESSON PLAN, 2 PRESENTATIONS, HANDOUTS, CRITIQUE, POSTER, MORE

[VIEW MORE HERE](#)

# LOOK BETWEEN THE LINES

## BY WHITNEY PANETTA



I'm Whitney, a former art teacher turned art curriculum developer. I now focus on designing art lessons, resources, & full curriculums for elementary, middle, high school art teachers, homeschool parents, & general art enthusiasts.

I am so glad to still be connected to the world of art education and I love seeing my resources "in the wild" all over the globe. Reach out anytime with questions or comments at [whitneywpanetta@gmail.com](mailto:whitneywpanetta@gmail.com).