

# 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade LWSD Art Docent Project: Paper Sculptures

## Element of Art: Form

**Objective:** to create a three-dimensional structure in the shape of an evergreen tree..

**Artistic Influence:** Chinese artist Li Hongbo 李洪波



### Elements of Art:

Form

### Materials:

- 9"x 12" tagboard or other stiff paper in any color (printed with the templates on pages 3 and 4 of this document)
- Scissors
- Glue (Elmer's X-treme school glue if possible, any other glue if not)
- Baby wipes

### Instructions and notes:

1. Print enough of the circle stencil pages on tagboard for each student to have one of his/her own, plus a few extras in case students would like to add a few more circle layers.
2. Print enough of the lined paper for each student to have half of a page.
3. Go through the lesson slides with the students. Give them some time to "ooh" and "ahh" at Li Hongbo's amazing sculptures. Impress upon the students that the thousands of layers of paper that go into each sculpture are glued by hand into a honeycomb structure. Imagine all of the hours of painstaking work that goes into the creation of each work of art.
4. While you could have students use foam adhesive spacers between each circular layer, having them fold and glue their own spacers by hand gives them the tiniest sense of the kind of manual work that Hongbo does to create his art. This folding and gluing part of the project is the most time consuming, so make sure that students have at least 20 minutes to do this.
5. When students finish, ask them to clean up their space, wipe all glue off their desks, and pick up scraps of paper from the floor.
6. Remind them to tightly cap all glue bottles (or glue sticks).
7. Distribute parent information page for students to take home, and print an extra page to post on your bulletin board with the finished art. See following page.
8. Please complete the brief [LWSD Art Docent Program Feedback Survey](#) for this lesson.
9. Thank you for supporting our elementary students' visual arts education.

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## LWSD Art Docent Project: Paper Sculpture

The goal of this 3<sup>rd</sup> grade lesson was to create a three-dimensional sculpture with nothing but paper and glue.

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Bust of Marseilles, 2012, Li Hongbo

### WA State Visual Arts Standard

Speculate about processes an artist uses to create a work of art. (VA: Ce7.1.3)

This sculpture lesson taught by volunteer art docents was inspired by the staggeringly labor-intensive and impressive paper sculptures of Chinese artist Li Hongbo 李洪波. Hongbo is famous for his paper sculpture busts, each made of 7,000 to 26,000 sheets of paper stacked on top of each other and manually glued into a honeycomb structure, providing extraordinary flexibility and sturdiness. Students cut and folded paper to make an evergreen tree with 10 to 20 layers – slightly less than the 7000+ layers used by Hongbo in his work, but still fun!

The development of this Lake Washington School District art docent lesson was made possible by a grant from the Lake Washington Schools Foundation.



