

Grade 3 – Paper Sculpture



Form

What do you see?



Bust of Marseilles, 2012, Li Hongbo

Artistic Focus: Form



Bust of Marseilles, 2012, Li Hongbo

FORM is a three-dimensional object that has height, length, width, and depth.

Today's objective:

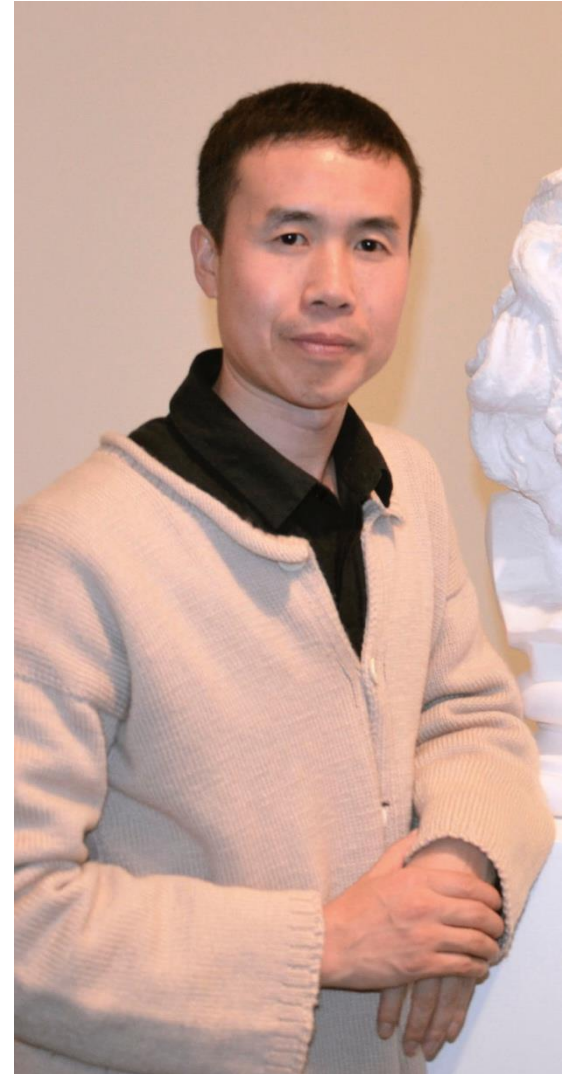
1. To think in three dimensions while cutting paper into roughly circular, concentric shapes.
2. To arrange and glue these shapes with spacers into the form of a tree.

WA State Visual Arts Standard

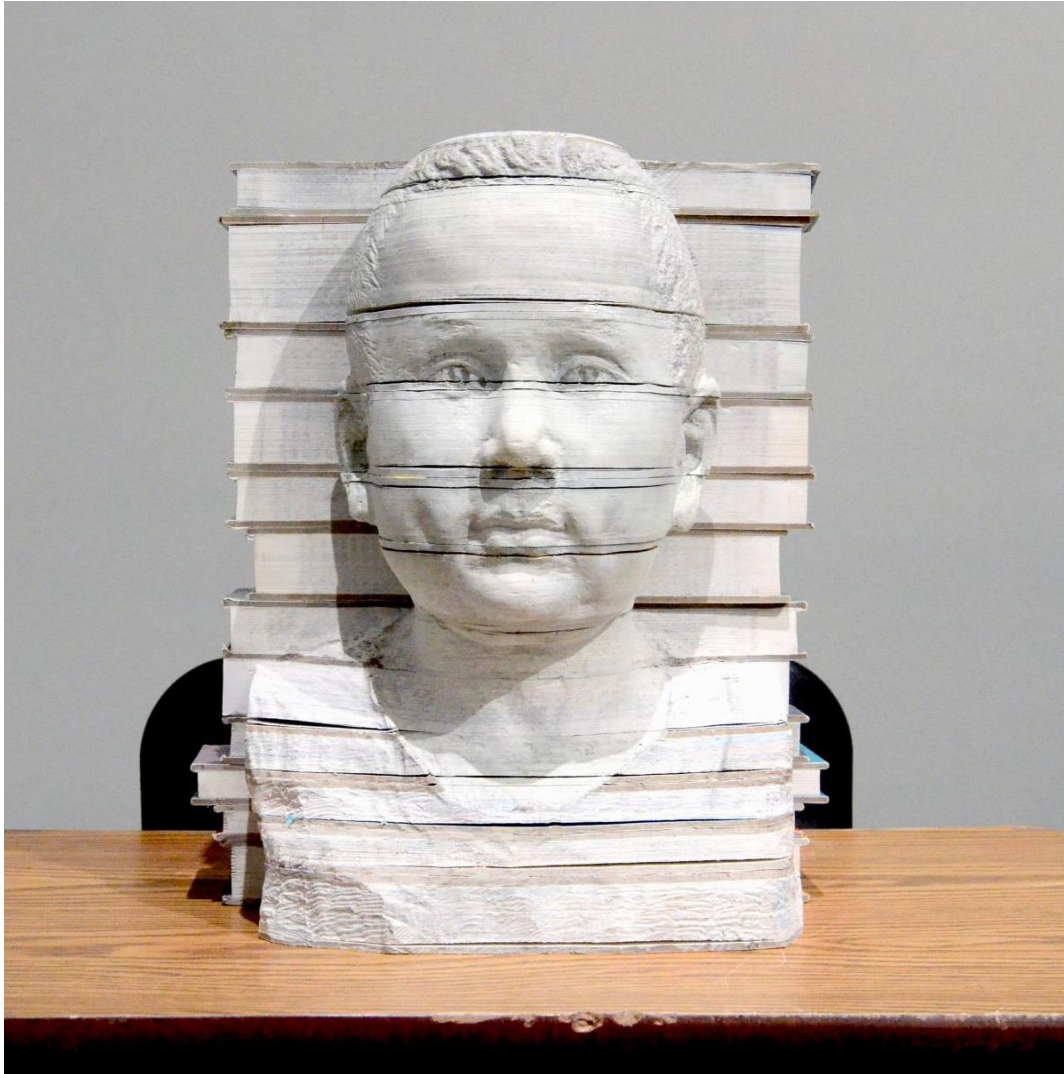
Speculate about processes an artist uses to create a work of art. (VA: Ce7.1.3)

Li Hongbo 李洪波

- Born in China's Jilin province in 1974.
- Lives and works in Beijing.
- Creates kinetic paper sculptures which can expand and contract.
- Sometimes makes his sculptures out of books.
- 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.
- Inspired by traditional Chinese folk art known as paper gourds, made from glued layers of paper.
- Is represented by the Eli Klein Gallery in New York and has had exhibitions of his artwork around the world.



Artwork



Absorption 1, 2015, Li Hongbo



Absorption 2, 2015, Li Hongbo

Artwork



Bust of David, 2015, Li Hongbo

Artwork



Rainbow, 2015, Li Hongbo

Materials

Tagboard, any color



Glue



Paper towels



Scissors

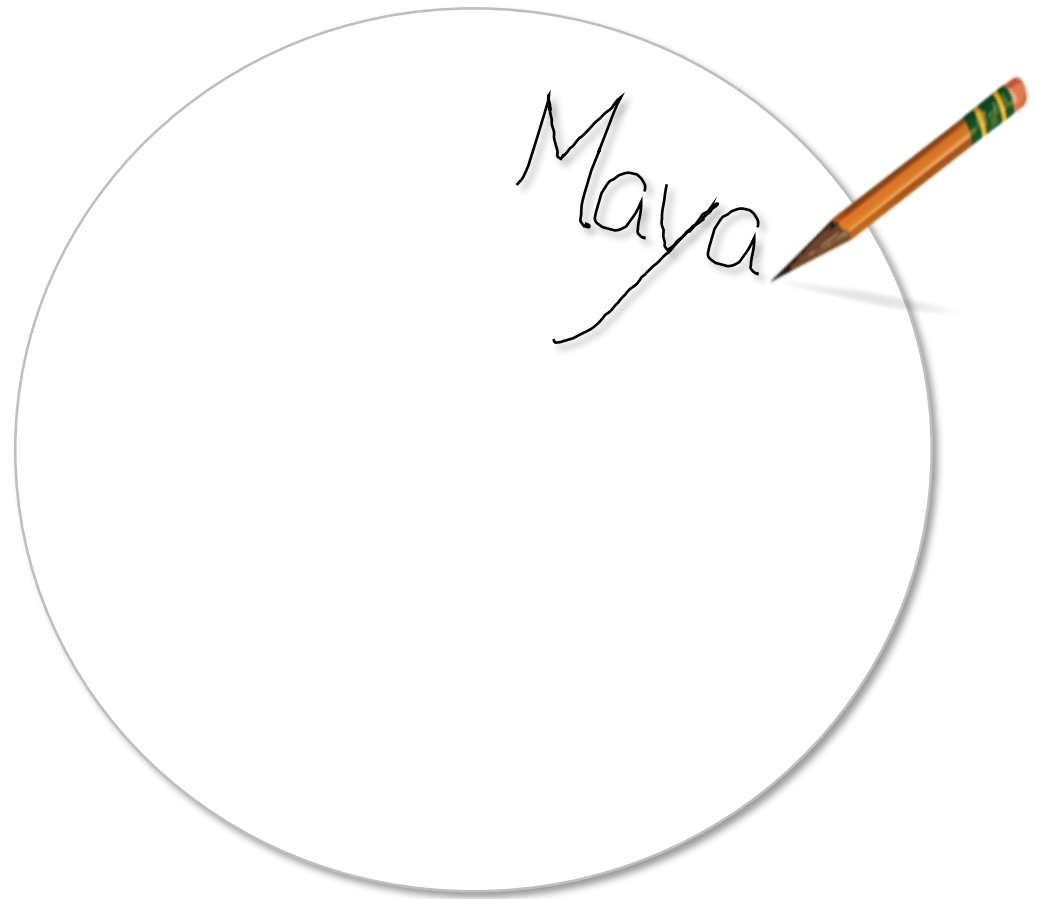


Example of Today's Project



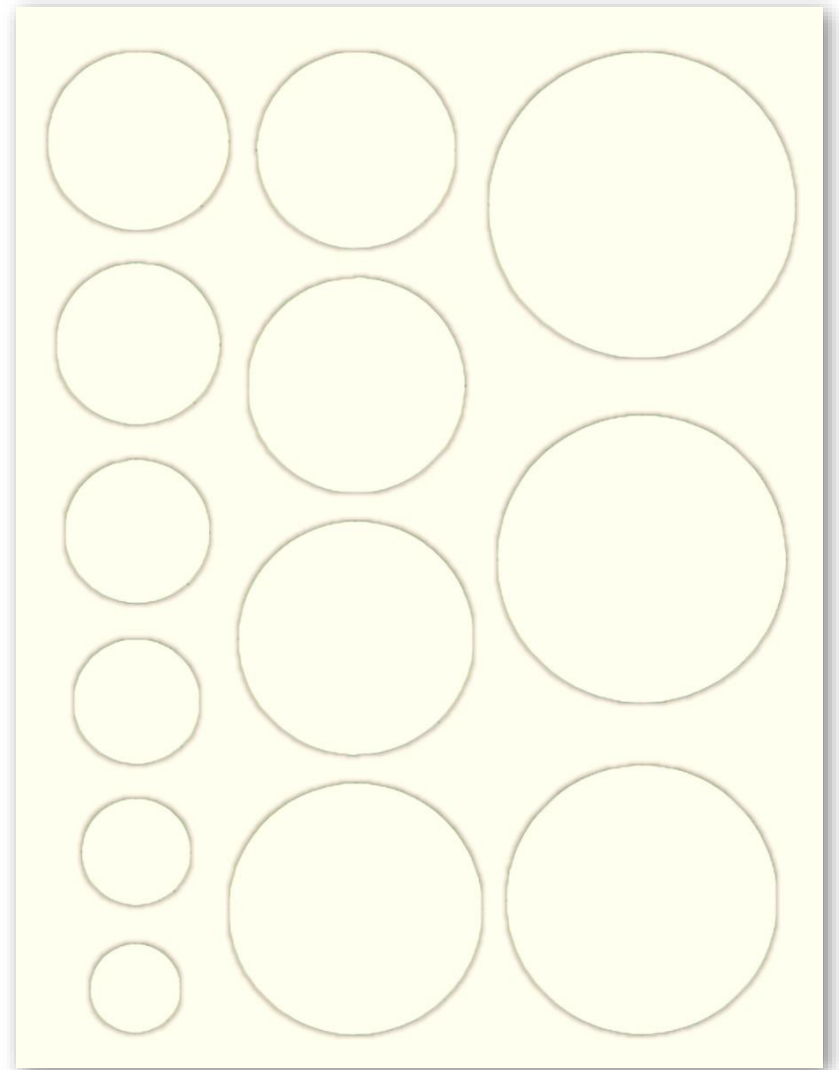
Before You Begin

1. Since we are creating a sculpture, you can't write your name on the back of your work yet. Instead, you will write your **name** in pencil on the **bottom** of the largest circle you cut.
2. **Roll up your sleeves!**



Step 1

- Each student should have one sheet of tagboard with this pattern of 13 circles printed on it.
- The plan is to use 10 circles to make the branches of your tree and 3 small to medium circles to make the trunk of your tree.



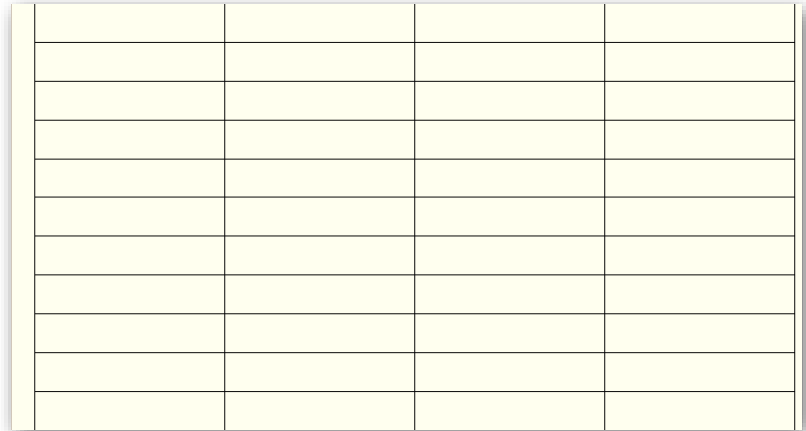
Step 2

- Cut out all of the circles.
- The cutting does not need to be exact. In nature, evergreen trees are not perfectly conical.



Step 3

- Each student should have one half-sheet of tagboard with this pattern of strips printed on it.
- You will need two to three times as many strips of tagboard as the number of circles you cut.
- Again, the cuts don't need to be exact, but if you try to cut them along the lines, the strips will be long enough to fold into a rectangular shape into which you can fit a finger when you start to glue.



Step 4

- Fold your strips of tagboard into small, rectangular spacers.
- Make sure your circles all have the printed lines facing down.
- Squirt a small amount of glue onto your circle as shown. Take your time pressing the glued bits together on all but the top (smallest) circle.
- This will take you more time than all of the cutting did.



Step 4

- Once your circles all have their rectangular spacers glued on top of them, (except for the smallest one), squirt glue onto the top of the spacers and start stacking the circles as shown.
- Take your time. Gently press the circles and rectangular spacers together without crushing the layers.



Reflection

- Have you made other kinds of paper sculptures in the past?
If yes, how did that compare to the sculptures you made today?
- In what other kind of artwork have you used paper, scissors and glue?
- In what way did this project enhance your appreciation of Li Hongbo's process?
- What was your favorite part of today's project?
- Would anyone like to share their tree?



Credits

1. About Li Hongbo https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Li_Hongbo
2. The Eli Klein Gallery that represents Li Hongbo in New York City
<http://www.galleryek.com/artists/li-hongbo>
3. On Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/Lihongboartist/>
4. Original LWSD sample art, used with permission.



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