

blanden

blanden memorial art museum
BLANDEN CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

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Paper Mache Fox



This art activity uses recycled materials, and is inspired by Minnie Wooldridge Adkins' wood sculpture with acrylic paint (left) titled "Red Fox" that was made in 2009. The work is in the Blanden Memorial Art Museum's Permanent Collection.

Born in Isonville, Kentucky, Minnie Adkins has been carving wooden animals since she was a child. Carving bears, opossums, red foxes, horses, roosters and other animals seen on her extensive wooded land in the hills of northern Kentucky, she is also known for her warmth and generous nature. Each year, she hosts a summer festival called "A Day in the Country" of Kentucky folk artists.

For advancing the arts in Kentucky, Minnie Adkins received special recognition. She was the recipient of the first Jane Morton Norton Award given by the Norton Center for the Arts. In 1993, she received the Award of Distinction from the Folk Art Society of America. In 1994, she was honored with the Appalachian Treasure Award.

She was awarded an honorary doctorate degree from Moreland State University (Kentucky) in 1998, and in the same year, received the Individual Artist Award from the Governor of Kentucky.

Her work is held in the permanent collections of the Huntington Museum of Art (West Virginia), Kentucky Folk Art Center, Owensboro Museum of Fine Arts (Kentucky), Craft and Folk Art Museum (Los Angeles) and the private collections of Oprah Winfrey and Barbara Streisand.

Additional Online Resources & Activities:

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Paper Mache Fox: Instructions

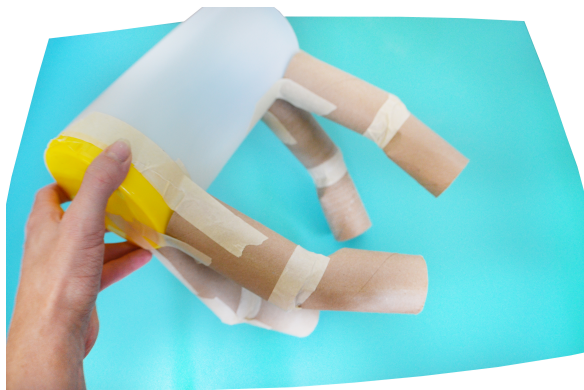
Step 1: A detailed video tutorial is available at www.blanden.org/online-educational-resources

Step 2: Gather materials: Eight (8) toilet paper rolls, One (1) 16.9 fl oz empty water bottle, One (1) 1 lb 5.5 oz disinfecting wipes empty container, thin cardboard, aluminum foil, newspaper, scissors, flour, water, white acrylic paint, and anything you'd like to use to decorate...acrylic paints, markers, watercolors, crayons, found objects, yarn, etc.



Step 3: Cut four (4) of the toilet paper rolls halfway down. Fold the cut line over each other to make it smaller. Tape this toilet paper roll to an uncut toilet paper roll at an angle. Reference the image of the artwork on the first page for the angle. Complete four (4) legs.

Step 4: Tape all four (4) legs to the empty disinfecting wipes container. *Note:* Take another look at the artwork on the first page. Notice how the legs angle inwards.



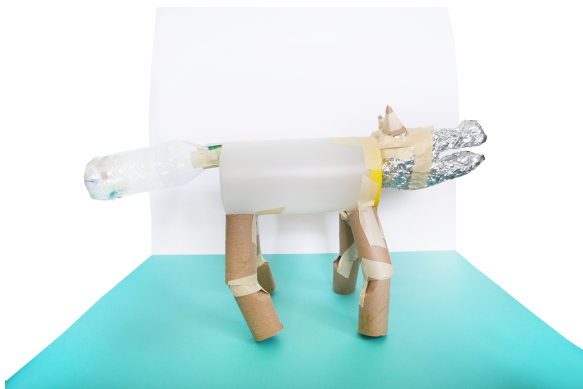
Step 5: Tape the empty water bottle to one end, so that it is flush with the top of the main body. This will end up being the tail.

Step 6: Cut eight (8) triangles of equal size about 1.5 inches wide and 2 inches tall. Tape four (4) triangles together to make a pyramid for an ear. Tape the other four (4) triangles together to make a pyramid for the second ear.



Step 7: Scrunch aluminum foil together to shape the main form of the head, and tape the ears to the top. Don't worry about the teeth or tongue. We'll add those later. *Tip:* Keep holding the head up to the main body to see if it will be large enough. Careful not to make it too big, or it will tip over from too much weight on one side. Balance is key.

Step 8: Tape the head to the body.



Step 9: Cut newspaper into strips about 1 to 2 inches wide, and mix the paper mache paste together. *Option 1:* Mix one part glue (wood glue or white Glue-All) with one part water. This is strong and will not rot. *Option 2:* Mix one part flour with one part water. Mix well with a spoon to get rid of all the lumps. It is possible for the project to rot or mold with this option since it is paper, flour and water. Adding a 1/2 tbsp of salt to the paste helps to prevent this, but it is not guaranteed.

Step 10: Cover your work area with newspaper, freezer paper, or anything else you'd like to protect it.

Step 11: Dip newspaper strips into the paper mache paste and run the strip through your fingers to remove excess paste from the strip and apply them to the structure. Cover it with 2 to 3 layers, and then let it sit to dry completely. This is an important step. *It has to be completely dry before painting.*

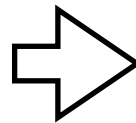


Step 12: While it's drying let's start making preliminary sketches for the design. A template is available on the next page. Questions to consider when thinking of a design include, but are not limited to:

- What does a fox mean to you?
- Is it going to look like Minnie Wooldridge Adkins' work or will you take it in a different direction?
- What materials will you use to complete it?



Step 13: The fox is ready to be finished! Use your preliminary sketch as a reference to complete the work. Paint, glue, cut, tape...have fun! Tada! Great job!



Paper Mache Fox

Preliminary Sketch Designs

