

PAPIER-MÂCHÉ * CREATURES

Topics: Sculpture, papier-mâché, compare and contrast, character design, texture

Supplies:

- recycled plastic or glass bottles, jars, or cans
- newspaper, paper scraps, and/or paper towels
- a disposable cup (or one you don't mind getting dirty)
- paintbrushes
- liquid glue
- paint
- optional: masking tape or a low temp hot glue gun

Do you have any pets? Is there a pet you've always wanted? It can be fun to have a friend to take care of and play with. What if your pet could be a three-eyed monster? Or a giant pink dog?

Misaki Kawai and **Brett Douglas Hunter** are two artists who make their own pets!



Misaki Kawai



Brett Douglas Hunter

MISAKI KAWAI

Misaki Kawai was born in Japan and makes many different kinds of artwork. She paints, sculpts, draws, and has even designed clothing and rugs! Misaki is inspired by a style called heta-uma. Heta-uma can be translated to mean “bad but good”. Look closely at some of Misaki’s artwork. Do you think it is “bad but good”? Why?



Romantic Melody (installation view), 2017. Photo: Jan Søndergaard



Big Bubble, 2011. Photo: Malmö Konsthall



Fuzzy Couple, 2018, Photo courtesy Misaki Kawai



Big Bubble, 2011. Photo: Malmö Konsthall



BRETT DOUGLAS HUNTER

Brett Douglas Hunter lives in Tennessee. He makes big papier-mâché and concrete sculptures of creatures. Sometimes the creatures are chairs or stools! **Papier-mâché** is a way of making sculptures by mixing paper, glue, and water. It was invented in China over 2000 years ago. Papier-mâché is a French word that means “chewed paper”. Look closely at the texture of Brett's sculptures. How do you think it would feel if you could touch them? What words would you use to describe them?



Photos courtesy Brett Douglas Hunter
Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/brettdouglashunter/>



PAPIER-MÂCHÉ CREATURES

Misaki Kawai and Brett Douglas Hunter both make papier-mâché creatures. How are Brett and Misaki's creatures similar? How are they different?



Untitled

Brett Douglas Hunter, 2017



Arty Life

Misaki Kawai, 2018

Let's make a papier-mâché creature!

1 Begin with a recycled bottle, can, or jar. This will be the base for your creature. What does the shape of your base remind you of? Where would the face go? Does it have legs? What about wings?



2 Next, tear up scraps of paper, newsprint, magazine pages, and paper towels. How does each material feel in your hands?

3 Fill a cup with water and squirt a bunch of liquid glue into it. Mix it up with the back of a paintbrush.

4 Dip each piece of torn paper into the glue water. Place it over the base of your creature and smooth it out. If you're having trouble getting your paper to stick, try brushing some glue over your base before placing the paper. Continue to add pieces of different textures until you've covered your whole creature.



5 While you wait for your creature to dry, think about how you want to paint it. How many eyes will it have? What colors will it be? Will it be patterned or solid-colored? If it helps, try sketching a plan on an extra piece of paper.



Let's make a papier-mâché creature!

6 You can add extra details like wings or horns by cutting out pieces of cardboard. The backs of empty pasta or cereal boxes work great! Use masking tape or ask a parent to hot glue your details on. What other materials could you use to make details?

7 Paint your creature!



REFLECTION

Misaki Kawai said:

“I think a pure heart and mind is important to make great artwork. Technique is great, too, but that is not the most important part. I think...just feeling is the most important thing.”

What do you think she meant by that?



Take a look at your papier-mâché creature. What do you notice? What name would you give it? What details did you add that express its personality? How did the texture change before and after your creature finished drying? If you made another creature, what would you do differently?

RESOURCES & SOURCES

Resources

Parents, visit [Misaki Kawai](#) and [Brett Douglas Hunter](#)'s websites to see more artwork by each artist. Choose images to share with your children.

Watch videos of papier-mâché [mojigangas](#) in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico and [Alebrijes](#) in Mexico City. You could make your own mojiganga with a balloon and papier-mâché, an oversize t-shirt or blanket, and two wooden spoons for arms!

Sources

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