

Art Activities Inspired by Alan Goldstein

Construction Collage

Collect some images of buildings and architecture from a variety of sources. You could use images from the Internet, from a newspaper or magazine, or, with your parent's permission, from a photo album. Cut each of the photographs in half, either vertically or horizontally. Rearrange the pieces on a separate piece of paper to create an abstracted view of the buildings.



Alan Goldstein, b. 1938, *Upriver from Lumberville Walking Bridge II*, ca. 1981, Oil on canvas, H. 65 x W 96.5 inches, James A. Michener Art Museum, Purchased with funds provided by Anne and Joseph Gardocki.

As an extra challenge, try to do a drawing or painting from the collage you made. You have just made a work of art by combining old, familiar things in a new way. How does the cutting and rearranging effect the image you have? Do you notice shifts in color, line, shape, form and texture of the objects?

Explore Paper

Do you have a lot of different kinds of paper at home? Drawing paper? Paper from your computer printer? Newspaper? Construction paper? Paper towels? A paper bag? Look around your house and collect many different samples of different types of paper. Create a unique work of art on each type of paper. How does the paper effect what you create?

Mix it Up!

Alan Goldstein liked to mix unusual materials in his paint. He mixed acrylic paints with ink, pastels and even liquefied tar. He also loved to mix his acrylics with dish detergent. Try mixing some of the dish soap you have in your kitchen with paint you have at home, create a painting – either abstract or realistic. When you are painting, do you notice if the dish soap changes the way the paint works? What are the differences? Does it bubble up when you paint with it?

Take a Chance!

Alan Goldstein likes chance and discovery to play a part in his art. Sometimes this means he works spontaneously; that is, he lets his ideas run freely and he does creative things with his art on the spur of the moment. Other times he plans carefully, but works with natural sources that cause unexpected things to happen. Light, for example, does exciting things but can be a useful tool for an artist. Goldstein created an entire series of figure paintings using cast shadows of people that he traced on paper before beginning to paint them.

Shine a Light!

Put a large piece of paper on a wall at home. Shine a spotlight on the paper, or have a friend or family member hold a flashlight up to the paper. Stand between the light and the paper, and have a friend trace your shadow on the large paper. Switch places – you hold the light, and have them trace your shadow. Trace some parts very detailed, and other parts very generally. Try to overlap the shadows so the figures look like they are moving. In the words of Alan Goldstein, “find parts that are interesting, select what you like, invent shapes.” When you have traced each other several times, turn the flashlight off, stand back and look at your arrangement or composition. Do you see many overlapping shapes and lines? What would happen if you filled different areas with different colors? Some of the color areas could be flat, solid color and other color areas could be blended colors. You could use pastels, oil pastels, crayons, watercolors, tempera or acrylic paint (or a combination of these materials) to create your final effect!