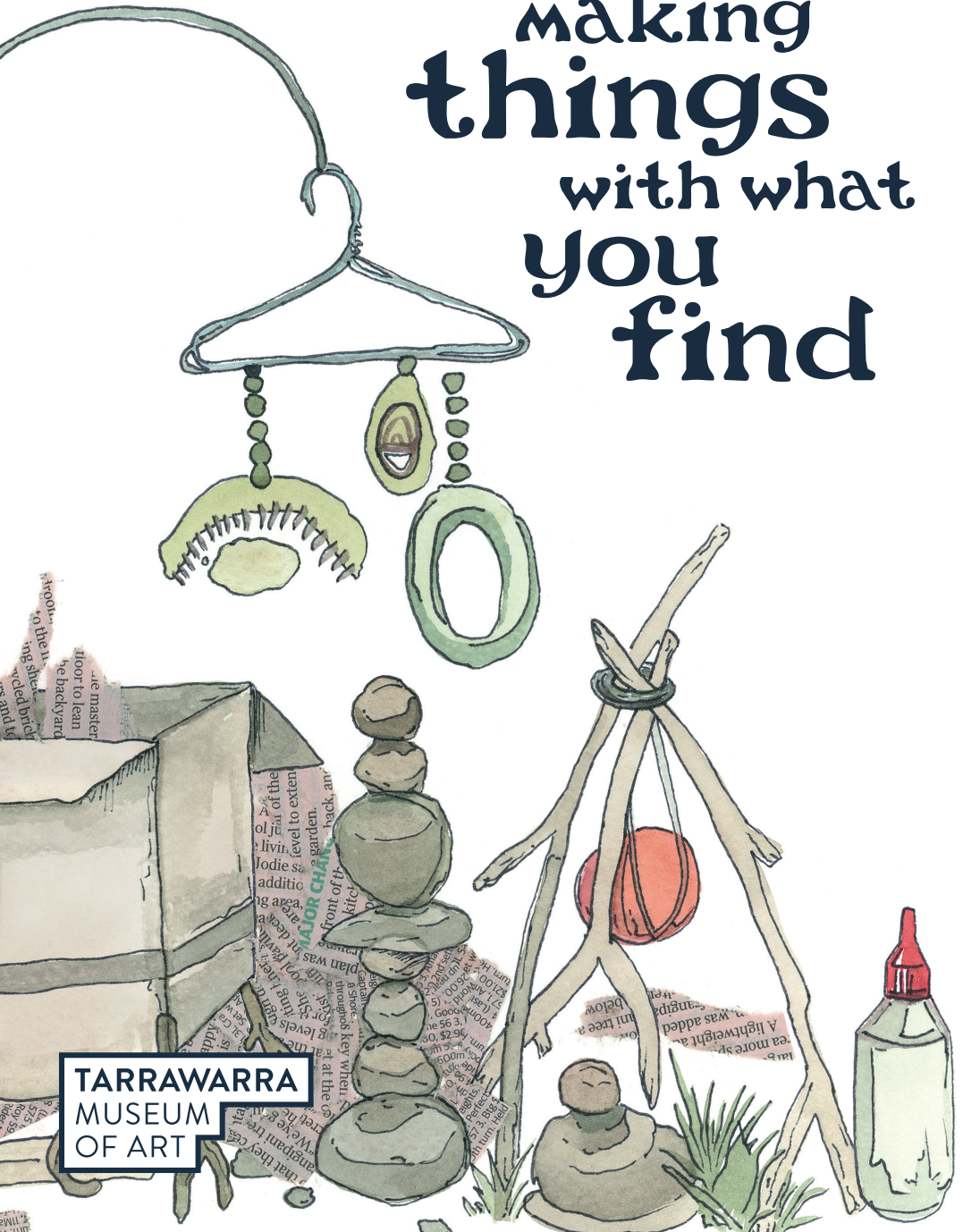


TARRAWARRA FIELD GUIDE

making things with what you find



TARRAWARRA
MUSEUM
OF ART

Wominjeka. Welcome to TarraWarra MUSEUM of art

TarraWarra Museum of Art acknowledges the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation as the original custodians of the lands and waters on which the Museum stands. We extend our respect to their community, their Ancestors and their Elders past, present and emerging.

Tarrawarra is a Woiwurrung word that translates approximately as 'slow moving waters' and is the name of the area in which the Museum is located.

TarraWarra Museum of Art's founding patrons, Eva Besen AO and Marc Besen AC, generously gifted the building that houses the Museum and donated a significant proportion of their collection of modern and contemporary Australian art for the enjoyment of all visitors.

Building on the Eva and Marc Besen gift, TarraWarra Museum of Art actively engages in art, place and ideas, where unexpected links between contemporary art and modernism are presented within global, national and Indigenous contexts.

We value the immersive atmosphere of our non-urban environment which provides an inspiring retreat for the imagination and unique artistic encounters.

TarraWarra Museum of Art Education's Field Guide publication series supports the development of skills needed to make, do, think, imagine and create. With an emphasis on exploring the outside world, TarraWarra Museum of Art Field Guides are intended to inspire creativity and foster deeper connections to making.

The activities, ideas and prompts in these pages have been designed to stimulate exploration and experimentation with things found in the natural world, as well as around the home, to create three-dimensional objects.

The activities, ideas, prompts, materials and tools discussed in this TarraWarra Museum of Art Field Guide should be approached with safety always as a priority. Children must be supervised by an adult at all times. The TarraWarra Museum of Art does not accept liability for any accident, injury, loss or damage incurred by anyone in reliance on the information or advice provided in this publication. Health and safety advice should be sought from medical and safety professionals.

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ANYONE CAN
HAVE FUN
CREATING
SCULPTURE!

Making things ...making sculptures!

Human beings have been making things for the longest time. Some of the things that humans make are called sculptures. Sculptures are three-dimensional artworks made using basic processes such as carving, modelling, casting, and constructing. Sculpture is an art form that has been around for a very long time. Some sculptural pieces that have been discovered date back 35,000–40,000 years!

Traditionally sculptural materials included stone, clay, plaster, wood, and different kinds of metal. Today, contemporary artists create sculptures from almost any material you can think of. The list of things you can make sculpture out of is limitless!

We, as humans, have these marvellous things called fingers and thumbs which are perfectly designed to twist, tie, mould, squish, squash, and mash different materials into three-dimensional forms to make sculpture. Many artists interested in sculpture dedicate their lives to learning about the properties of different materials, and mastering processes and techniques related to sculptural practice; but anyone can have fun creating sculpture!

Some people work on the same thing for many hours while other people make their sculptures quite quickly. It doesn't really matter what you make, or how long it takes you to make it, as long as you enjoy what you're doing.

You'll find ideas on how to make things with what you have at hand in this Field Guide. You might decide to keep and display some of the things you make in your home. Other things that you make might not last very long, or you might choose to break them down and make new things out of their parts! Always have an adult supervise when you're making sculpture and remember to be very careful when using different materials and tools. There are instructions, or 'recipes', for how to make simple sculptural materials from basic kitchen ingredients at the end of this Field Guide. These recipes require heat from a stove-top or oven. You should definitely ask for help from an adult to follow these recipes safely. Working outside in the fresh air, wearing safety glasses, washing your hands regularly and remembering not to taste the sculptural materials you make will all help to keep you safe.



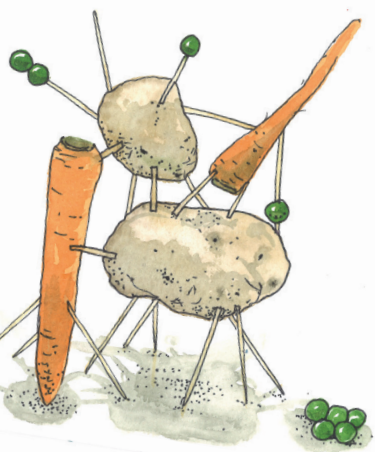
Where should I look to find materials that I can make things out of?

There are literally hundreds of materials that can be found around your house—hiding in 'junk' drawers, waiting to be taken outside to the recycle bin, just outside your front door, or scattered about in your backyard—that can be used to make things.

You could create an 'art box' and fill it with all the different materials that you find. A sturdy cardboard box, like an old shoe box with a lid, makes a perfect art box. Add interesting twigs, seedpods, shells, feathers, a roll of twine, pieces of string or wool, a strong pair of scissors, a roll or two of sticky or masking tape, and whatever else takes your fancy. Having a box of art making materials ready to go makes your life as an artist much easier. Keep on adding materials to your art box as you find them to ensure it's always well stocked and ready for when you have time to spend creating.



Let's
start by
looking
inside for
materials!



Go on a scavenger hunt in each room of your house and look for:

- old toilet rolls
- dental floss
- newspapers and magazines
- old stockings or items of clothing that are bound for the donation bin
- bamboo toothpicks and skewers
- aluminium foil
- empty plastic containers and lids from jars and bottles
- food ...

Food? Yes, food! Have you ever considered using food to make a sculpture? Ask an adult if you can experiment with making things from fresh fruit and vegetables before they are chopped up for a meal or a snack. Toothpicks are perfect for joining pieces of potato, apple, and zucchini together to make larger forms. Try threading individual peas and corn kernels onto skewers, string, or dental floss to create straight and wiggly vegetable 'necklaces'. Just remember to remove all of the toothpicks, skewers, string, and dental floss before you eat or cook up the fruit and vegetables you've used. You could ask for help from an adult to cut or carve sweet potatoes and carrots into interesting shapes, or fashion bread dough into 'blobby' sculptures before baking it.



ONE PERSON'S
TRASH CAN
BE SOMEONE
ELSE'S
TREASURE!

Now, let's
look outside
for
materials!

Collect treasures from nature, or even disused manmade objects (sometimes known as 'junk'!) to make sculpture.

There are all sorts of things to be found at the **beach**, like pieces of driftwood, old fishing line, dried out sea sponges, cuttlefish bones, shells, and even pieces of coloured glass worn smooth by the waves. A walk around your **local park** might reveal an old tennis ball, a forgotten ribbon, bird feathers, and an assortment of twigs and sticks. If you have a **garden** or a **nature strip** you can collect leaves of different colours, textures, sizes and shapes, seedpods, small rocks or stones, and flowers. Keep your eyes open as you walk nearby your local train station or find out when your **local Council's 'hard waste' collection** is scheduled; one person's trash can be someone else's treasure, when it comes to making sculpture!



I've looked
inside

and I've looked
outside

... Where else
can I source
materials?

There are so many types of
sculptural materials that you can
buy from the shops and lots of
them don't cost very much at all.

Second hand or charity shops usually have a stash of donated craft materials tucked away in a corner to rummage through. A little bag of odd buttons, a few random knitting needles, and an ancient bag of party streamers might catch your eye! Other donated items for sale could also inspire your sculpture making. What could you create with some old matchbox cars, a headless doll, and a pair of spotty socks?

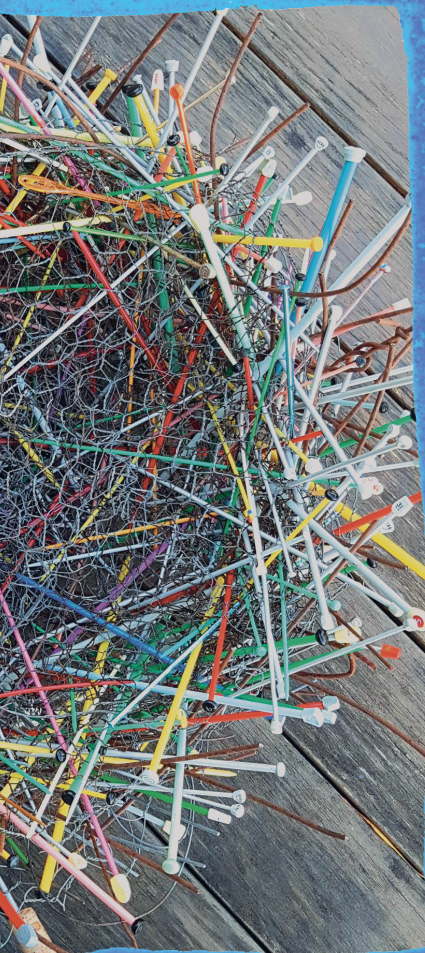
In many discount or \$2 stores you can find plasticine modelling clay (which never dries out, so it can be used over and over again), air-dry modelling clay (which will dry out over time without the need of a kiln and can be later painted), hot glue guns and hot glue sticks (great for assemblage), wire, different kinds of tape, pipe-cleaners, and other crafty items for sale.

You could also ask an adult to help you find materials online, or ask a neighbour, friend or relative if they have any old craft materials that might inspire the creation of something truly unique!

Imagine
finding ...

- a box
- four sticks
- a golf ball or tennis ball
- some wire
- a handful of feathers
- some tape
- modelling clay, plasticine or playdough

Try drawing a sculpture that uses
all or just a few of these materials.



But what will I make?

Sometimes the materials you have in front of you suggest a form that they could be turned into.

Say you have one old sock, some dried grass clippings, and some twine. You might stuff the grass into the sock, wrap it with the twine until it looks like a lumpy, bumpy caterpillar. Maybe you'll continue to bind the stuffed sock tighter and tighter with the twine, until it is long and thin. What does it look like to you now? You might even decide to over stuff the sock with the clippings, until it's roundish and tight, then stick buttons all over it. This is a 'thing' and your thing is a sculpture. You might not have any idea what it is, but it most definitely is a sculpture!

Still not sure where to start? If you're stuck for ideas on where to start with your materials, a useful thing to do is to look at sculptures that other artists have made. You can get so much inspiration by seeing what artists have done with materials similar to those you have on hand, and you will be sure to learn lots of new techniques too.

Look at sculptures for inspiration—large and small—in galleries and museums, on our streets, in public gardens, in books, and online ...

Looking at sculptures and dividing them into four basic categories ...

See if you can find examples of different sculptures that have been made using these basic processes:

Carving – carved from wood, wax, stone, ice, soap, chocolate, etc.

Casting – cast in bronze, aluminium, concrete, plaster, etc.

Modelling – modelled from clay, wax, plaster, papier-mâché, etc.

Constructing – assembled, or put together, from component parts (bits and pieces!)

One thing all artists do when they get stuck for ideas on what to make is to spend time playing and experimenting with different materials. They simply play with things, combine different materials in different ways, challenge themselves to push materials to their very limits, embrace failure, and don't worry about making mistakes or not doing things 'properly'. Sometimes the things they make are not quite right, and sometimes they are completely wrong, but every time an artist makes something they learn a little bit more about what the materials they use can do!

EPHEMERAL
SCULPTURES
AREN'T MEANT
TO LAST
FOREVER

Ephemeral Sculpture

'Ephemeral' is a word that is used to describe something that only exists for a short time. Ephemeral sculptures are made from materials that may decay (like leaves or flowers), blow away (like sand or paper), or even melt (like ice). Artists who make ephemeral sculpture often use different methods to document what they have made. Because their works aren't meant to last forever, it is as much about the process of making the work as it is about the outcome. An artist might choose to use photography, video, sound, sketching, or writing, to record how their artworks are formed, how they change over time, and ultimately, to prove that their artworks existed at all! An ephemeral artwork could also just be kept as a memory in the mind of the artist and those lucky enough to see it before it disappeared.

Kinetic Sculpture

The word 'kinetic' means relating to motion. Movement is an essential element for a kinetic sculpture. The movement of the whole form, or just parts of the form, might be driven by a motor, the wind, the movement of air in a space (in the case of a mobile), or even by flowing water. Can you find some artists who make kinetic sculptures?



Try making these sculptural materials from scratch in the kitchen

Here are some recipes for different sculptural materials you can make using simple kitchen ingredients.

You will need help from an adult to follow these recipes safely:

Salt Dough

You can make salt dough from three simple ingredients. This dough is great because once you've finished shaping it, you can bake it in an oven until it dries out and your sculpture will last a very long time.

Method: Mix 4 cups of plain flour with 1 cup of table salt in a large bowl. Slowly mix in 1 ½ cups of warm water. When the mixture comes together turn the dough out onto your bench and knead it with your hands until it is smooth and pliable. You can use this dough to create sculptural forms. Try rolling it out into a slab and then cutting out shapes with a butter knife or shaped cookie cutter. Roll the dough into long, thin sausage shapes and use these to create coiled creations! Once you've finished making your salt dough creation, bake it in a 180C oven. The time your sculptures will take to bake depends on their size and thickness, but you will need to bake them until they become firm (approximately 1 hour). When the sculptures are cool, they can be painted with acrylic paint and sealed with varnish.

Play Dough

Play dough is made from similar ingredients to salt dough but you don't bake it in an oven. Play dough is a fabulous material to make at home and

use over and over again. Play dough is fun and easy to use, no matter how old—or young—you might be! Have fun modelling with play dough and then, once you're finished creating, squish what you've made into an air-tight container and use your play dough again and again.

Method: Mix together 1 cup plain flour, ½ cup of table salt, 2tbs cream of tartar, 1 cup of tap water, 1tbs vegetable oil, and 3 drops of food colouring in a saucepan. Stir over low heat until dough is pliable. Allow to cool and store in an air-tight container (an old ice cream container is perfect). Try making playdough in all the colours of the rainbow.

Papier-mâché glue/flour paste

Papier-mâché glue or flour paste is perfect for using between layers of torn up paper to create sculptural forms. As the paper and glue dry they harden and hold their shape. You might like to create an armature or support to apply your papier-mâché over. Simple armatures can be made from crumpled aluminium foil, old plastic containers or bottles, twisted wire, or blown up balloons.

Method: Mix 1 cup of plain flour with 1 cup of cold water until it is smooth. Meanwhile, bring another 4 cups of water to a boil in a saucepan on the stove top. Slowly stir the water and flour mixture into the boiling water. Mix well and let it boil for another 2–3 minutes. It is ready when it is smooth with the consistency of thick glue. Stir in 2tbs of table salt and allow to cool completely before using.

These materials can be used with **bare hands** as they are **non-toxic**. Clean-up is easy with water and a sponge after use.



acknowledgements

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TarraWarra Museum of Art is grateful to Education Program Sponsors:
Ullmer Family Foundation, Scanlon Foundation, Escala Partners, The Erdi Foundation,
Bennelong Foundation and Credit Suisse.



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