

MAKE A MEMORY FAN



In *Baptism*, artist Haywood Bill Rivers painted a scene of a baptism, a religious ceremony in which a person is cleansed with water and then reborn. The artist used memories of going to church to make this painting. Look closely at the people and at the church in the

background: the people and church appear as if they are facing towards you. Now, look at the pond and the people in the water. They appear as if you are looking down at them. Why do you think this is?

The artist painted this work from memory. Sometimes an artist paints what they feel or remember, not just what they see. Memories and feelings may not look quite like real life. Notice the wavy lines in the pond: those are ripples in the water. See the white dots on the ground: those are flowers. The wavy lines and dots are painted in patterns, to feel like real ripples and flowers.

In this activity, you will make a fan, like many people use in church, decorated with scenes from some of your favorite memories.

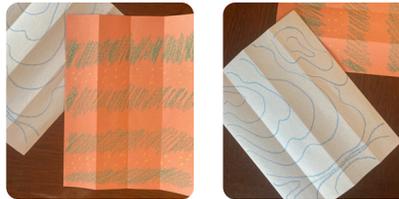
Haywood Bill Rivers (American, 1922-2001). *Baptism*. 1948. Oil on canvas. 26 1/8 x 22 in. (66.4 x 55.9 cm). The Baltimore Museum of Art: Gift of the Negro History Week Committee, BMA 1949.56. © Artist or artist's estate

MATERIALS

Paper, popsicle sticks, glue, drawing materials, pipe cleaners, ribbon, or string

INSTRUCTIONS

1



Look again at the painting and think of a very strong memory. Are there any patterns or shapes that the memory makes you think of? Draw them on a piece of paper, then fold the paper into four equal parts.

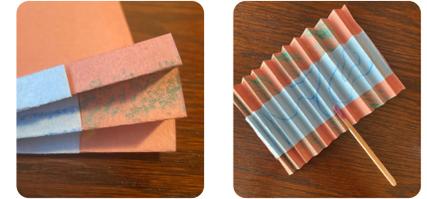
Fold a second piece of paper into four equal parts. Decorate it with more bits of memory.

2



Cut one sheet into four parts along the fold lines and glue them to the whole sheet of decorated paper. When the glue has dried, cut your sheet in half so that you can make two fans.

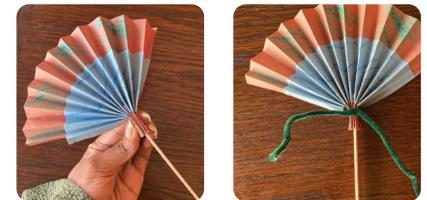
3



Make folds in the paper about the width of the popsicle stick, continuing until the end of the paper. Repeat the same fold pattern on the other sheet of paper.

Glue the end of a popsicle stick and place it in the middle of the folded paper.

4



Pinch the end of your paper together to secure the popsicle stick. Wrap a pipe cleaner, ribbon, or yarn around the popsicle stick and paper.

Congratulations: you have made memory fan!



We'd love to see your work! Snap a picture of your final creation and share with us on Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter using the hashtag #ArtBMAFromHome for a chance to be featured.

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