

MAKE A PAPER FLOWER BOUQUET



A still life is a painting or drawing of a group of objects (often fruit, flowers, or other items) arranged in any way the artist chooses. In *New England Still Life*, artist Rebecca Salsbury James painted an arrangement of flowers in a vase. Instead of painting on canvas or paper, the

artist used a different approach: she painted on the back of a piece of glass. This method is called reverse glass painting. Rather than starting with the background, James first painted the fine details of the flowers, then the vase, and the background last. See how the petal of the white flower at the bottom right sits on top of the vase?

In today's activity, you can take inspiration from Rebecca Salsbury James to create a still life of paper flowers. Ask an adult for help and follow the directions below.

Learn more about *New England Still Life*:

gomobileartbma.org/#object/1129

Rebecca Salsbury James. *New England Still Life*. c. 1940. The Baltimore Museum of Art: W. Clagett Emory Bequest Fund; in Memory of his Parents, William H. Emory of A and Martha B. Emory; Edward Joseph Gallagher III Memorial Fund; and purchase with exchange funds from Bequest of Lowell Nesbitt in Memory of Adelyn D. Breeskin, BMA 2007.161. © Artist or artist's estate

MATERIALS

Scissors, glue, a jar, cup or small vase, three sheets of colored paper (a large sheet about 8 ½" x 11", a small piece of dark paper, and a small piece of lighter paper), pipe cleaners, and craft stick or pencils.

INSTRUCTIONS

1



Fold the large sheet of paper in half horizontally twice.

Fold each side of the paper towards the center. Open the paper and you should see 12 squares.

2



Cut along the middle horizontal fold to make two sets of six squares. Cut the paper again to make six sets of two squares. Fold each set of two squares like a card.

3



Draw a half-heart shape along the fold and cut it out. Repeat on each card to make five hearts.

4



Cut a small circle from your lighter paper and a small heart from your darker paper. Place them to the side.

5



Glue together four of the (purple) hearts from Step 3 at their bottom points so that two are horizontal and two are vertical. Turn the hearts over.

Get the shapes you cut in Step 4 and glue the circle on top of the hearts turned over.

6



Glue a pipe cleaner to the back of the flower in the center to make a stem. Cover the fifth heart with glue and press it firmly to the top of the stem to cover it.

9

Repeat Steps 1–8 to make as many flowers as you like and arrange them in your vase.

Now you have created your very own still life!

