

MAKE A SHAPED CANVAS

What does it mean to be inspired? When something or someone inspires us, we see things differently. Today's activity is designed to inspire you to create your own uniquely shaped canvas. Artists use canvases as a surface for drawings and paintings. A traditional canvas is usually a square or rectangle, but imagine the possibilities if you decided it could be any shape that inspired you. That's what South African artist Jo Small did when she created the *Mongrel Collection* series. The series features organically shaped artworks inspired by shapes she found in Henri Matisse paintings and patterns in African fabrics she has collected for many years.

Tip: Try not to use more than two or three paint colors. Less is often more.

For inspiration, view the virtual gallery tour of *Jo Small: Flying with Remnant Wings* at artbma.org/smalltour



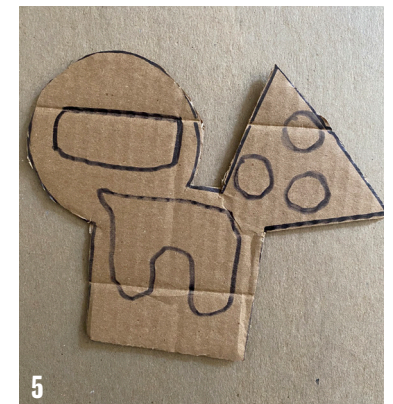
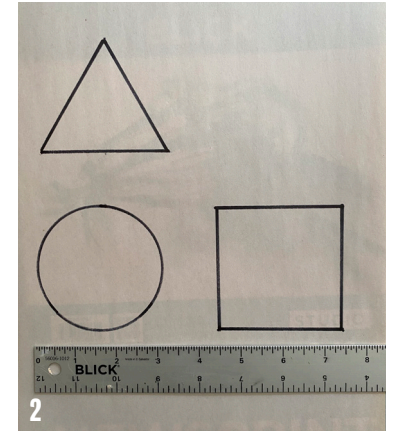
Follow the instructions below to make your own collection of unique canvases.

SUPPLIES

- Paper
- Pen or pencil
- Scissors
- Paint or crayons
- Cardboard
- Tape

LET'S GET STARTED

- 1 Find three shapes that inspire you. These can be shapes you imagine, shapes you find in objects around your home, or even the shadows of those objects. The possibilities are endless!
- 2 Use your pen or pencil to draw the three shapes on a piece of paper.
- 3 Cut out each shape. Rearrange the shapes to create a new, larger shape. You can overlap them or turn them sideways and upside down. Get creative!
- 4 Tape your arrangement of shapes to your piece of cardboard and trace the outer edge of the new shape.
- 5 After tracing, cut out the new shape. Now you have a uniquely shaped canvas for your artwork.
- 6 Draw or paint new shapes and patterns on your canvas. Use your imagination or find shapes and patterns around your home for inspiration.
- 7 When you're done, show off your masterpiece or make more.



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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