

Summer Arts 1: “Let’s Weave!” collage

Lesson Plan Objective:

In *Let’s Weave*, created by artist and Blaffer Art Museum docent Rona Lesser, we will draw inspiration from the exhibition *Jamal Cyrus: The End of My Beginning* to create designs with paper weaving or quilting. Cyrus’s ongoing series *Jet Auto Archives* uses magazine pages of *JET* magazine, translating techniques for making traditional Ghanaian kente cloth and quilt-making in the Southern United States to create paper and cardboard collages.

Approximate Time:
1 Hour

Skill Level:
Moderate

Parental Supervision:
Child scissors recommended



Image (Detail): Jamal Cyrus, *Jet Auto Archive—April 27, May 11, May 25, 1992*
(*Medicated L.A. Kente*), 2018, Paper and cardboard collage, 40” x 88”

Art Materials:

- Cardstock or heavy paper
- Construction paper
- Magazine or newspaper
- Glue
- Child scissors
- Markers
- Pen or pencil
- Any other drawing materials of your choice
- Optional: Fabric scraps

Instructions:

1. On two pieces of card stock or paper: glue down images and text from magazines or newspapers. Try and choose a theme that is important to you. Decide whether to glue on both sides or one side. If using only one side, decorate the other side with patterns and colors.
2. Fold the first paper in half “hamburger style” i.e. narrow to narrow side. Draw a line all the way across about 1” down from the open part of the fold with marker or pen. If you want a fringe at the bottom, open up and cut 1” or slightly smaller lines up to the line you drew. If you want the bottom to be sealed, keep the paper folded and cut up to the line you drew.

3. Cut the other piece of paper you decorated into strips. They don't have to be exactly the same width.
4. Start weaving into the first piece, which is the "warp." Go over and under and push to the top. This called the "weft." Start the next piece by weaving the opposite way, under and over. Continue until you get towards the bottom. You can add glue to the edge to seal.

Option:

For a different, simpler version, you may try alternate techniques without weaving: Cut strips from newspapers/magazines in different size rectangles and arrange on the cardstock/paper bases. Glue on. You could use fabric from old clothes instead to create more of a quilt.



Image: *Sample*, front side of woven image, artist Rona



Image: Weaving technique



Image: Reverse side of woven image.