



Image taken by MOCA staff

Paper Cutouts Activity Guide

Winter Holiday Programming:
Exploring Light and Shadow

Introduction

Paper Cutouts will explore the concept of light and shadow by carving and/or cutting away negative space to create an intricate design catered to any artistic level. This programme is inspired by *GTA21* artist Ghazaleh Avarzamani and her work *Mashrabiya*, which plays with the complexities of shape and shadow by controlling how much light enters the Museum space.



Ghazaleh Avarzamani, *Mashrabiya*, 2021. Photo taken by Toni Hafkenscheid.



Participants are also invited to look at Ashoona Ashoona and Alexa Hatanaka's work *Ummatima trillirninga, I can feel my heart beat*, which provides an excellent demonstration of a black and white printed composition, where shadows create forms. The construction of this work also creates a lantern light effect upon the back wall.

Ashoona Ashoona and Alexa Hatanaka, *Ummatima trillirninga, I can feel my heart beat*, 2021. Photo taken by MOCA staff.



Ashoona Ashoona and Alexa Hatanaka, *Ummatima trillirninga, I can feel my heart beat*, 2021. Photo taken by Toni Hafkenscheid.

Materials

Suggested

- Exacto knife
- Carving mat
- Pencils
- Cardstock paper
- Rulers
- Flashlight



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Replacements

The materials listed above can be easily replaced with regular household items including:

- Scissors
- A clean and dry cutting board
- Paper (printer paper, magazine pages, newspaper, etc)

Instructions

Paper cutouts

1. Brainstorm ideas for your design. This can be done on paper or in your head.
2. Draw your design lightly using your pencil. Use a ruler if needed and/or desired.
3. If using scissors, lightly fold the paper to make a small incision to cut out the desired areas.
4. If using an exacto knife, place your paper on the mat, use the knife to trace your drawing and cut out the desired spaces.



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Casting Shadows

1. Explore light and shadow with your cutout using the flashlight on your phone. Turn your room lights off and hold your paper approximately a foot away from a surface and shine your flashlight at different angles. In doing this, you should be able to see your cutout design cast onto the surface behind your paper.



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Guiding Questions

- A. Shine the light through your cutout, what kinds of shadows are cast? Are they larger or the same size? Does it look the same as your original?
- B. What kinds of shapes can you include in your design?
- C. Are there any other artworks in the exhibition that are inspiring your design?