

Art Activity

Create a Torn Paper Landscape

Take & Make: Paper Landscape

Ages: 6+

Collection: American, *Dirty South: Contemporary Art, Material Culture, and the Sonic Impulse*

Culture/Region: Southern United States

Subject Area: Fine Arts, Visual Arts

Activity Type: Hands-On Activity

Create a torn paper landscape inspired by the landscape, music, and traditions in the South!



The southern region of the United States has been the birthplace of musical icons such as Robert Johnson, B.B. King, Outkast, and so many more! The unique sound of musical genres, such as the blues and southern hip-hop are rooted in the deep south and have had an incredible impact on our contemporary landscape at large. VMFA's special exhibition, *Dirty South: Contemporary Art, Material Culture, and the Sonic Impulse* explores the avenues in which black culture in the South has inspired art, landscape, and contemporary expression.

Learn more about VMFA and its collections and exhibitions by visiting www.vmfa.museum. Also make sure to check out the special exhibition, *Dirty South: Contemporary Art, Material Culture, and the Sonic Impulse* on view from May 22 - September 6, 2021.

Now it's your turn to create! Consider the musical expressions and landscape of the South and follow the directions below to create your own southern torn paper landscape.

Materials:

- Cardstock/Cardboard
- Construction Paper
- Crayons
- Glue
- **Optional:** Decorative paper, tape, glitter, cardstock or poster board

Creating a torn paper landscape

1. Start with your sheet of cardstock or piece of cardboard; this will serve as the base for your design.
2. Fold a sheet of construction paper in half.
3. Tear construction paper in half along the crease.



4. Turn on your favorite blues or southern rap artist and use the crayons to design each sheet of construction paper in response to the music.

5. Consider design elements such as line, shapes, pattern and how they relate to the rhythm and beat of the music. Consider adding features that you may see in your own neighborhood.

6. Tear colored construction paper in 3-4 (or more) strips lengthwise and arrange them in an overlapping design, as desired. This will start your landscape design.

7. Add glue to the back of each strip and press them down to your cardstock/cardboard base. Allow the strips to overlap.

8. Once all torn strips have been glued to the base, let the glue dry.

9. Using a new sheet of construction paper, cut out four strips of paper to match the length of each side of your work. These paper strips will serve as the frame for your work.

10. Arrange the frame strips along the edge of the cardstock and glue them down. Set your torn paper landscape out on display!



Keep listening to sounds from *The Dirty South*

VMFA commissioned multimedia artist, composer, and writer Paul D. Miller (aka DJ Spooky) to produce original music and playlists inspired by *The Dirty South*. Listen to his sonic collage work available for purchase in the Museum Shop, or scan the QR code found here for his curated Spotify playlist.



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***Dancing in Senegal I*, 1968**

Gerard Sekoto, South African, 1913 – 1993 (Artist)

South African

Oil on canvas

2016.446

<https://www.vmfa.museum/piction/6027262-109823400/>

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