



OGDEN MUSEUM OF SOUTHERN ART EDUCATION DEPT



Thornton Dial was born in 1928 in Emelle, Alabama. One of 12 children, he grew up impoverished during segregation. From a young age, he and his siblings created toys from discarded objects. Dial worked in a variety of media including large-scale sculptures, painting, and assemblage, yet his pieces are easily recognizable. People, animals, and abstraction often appear in his work. Dial's work reflects his life experiences, often within historical context, ranging from the implications of race relations in America to romance.

Thornton Dial, Sr., *Man Got It Made Sitting in the Shade*, 1991,
Braided rope on canvas mounted on wood, Gift of the Roger H. Ogden Collection

Make your own assemblage!



Definitions

Assemblage — an artwork made from scraps, junk, and odds and ends (paper, fabric, beads, wood, stone, or metal).

Abstract — an artwork that is comprised of shapes and colors.

Materials

- Paper (preferably card stock)
- Yarn
- Glue
- Brush
- Sharpie
- Markers
- Other Odds and Ends

Directions

1. Start by taking a sharpie and creating a contour drawing of your scene. Contour means “outline” in French – to make a contour drawing just outline the shapes of your subjects.
2. Choose the first area of your piece that you would like to fill in with yarn and coat that area with glue using a brush.
3. Carefully start placing the yarn onto the glue-coated paper in the shape or pattern you sketched. Hold the yarn down to make sure the glue holds.
4. When you are finished applying yarn to your artwork, add some detail with markers or other odds and ends you have around the house.