



OGDEN MUSEUM  
OF SOUTHERN ART

## Mixed Media Collage: Creating Symbols of Strength in Times of Struggle Inspired by Thornton Dial



Thornton Dial, *Struggling Tiger in Hard Times*, 1991, Oil, rope carpet, tin, carpet and industrial sealing compound on canvas mounted on wood, Gift of Calynne and Lou Hill in honor of Director William Andrews

**Thornton Dial's** work often draws from his personal experiences of living as an African American man in the South, depicting a range of subjects from race relations to romance. Despite lacking formal training, Dial has risen to prominence and museums across the country hold his works in their collections. A tiger motif frequently appears in his work, a symbol of the African American struggle to obtain equal rights in the United States.

**Create your own symbol of strength using found objects.**

### Supplies

Scissors, Glue Stick, Markers, Found Objects

### Instructions

**Step 1:** Use the template of the tiger provided or draw your own **symbol**.

**Step 2:** What symbolizes strength to you, maybe it's an animal or object? Using a marker draw your symbol.

**Step 3:** Create texture. Search your house for materials to **collage** (be sure to ask a parent if it's okay to use what you find for your art piece). Use a glue stick to glue materials and **found objects** to your **mixed media** collage. Think about the types of materials and colors you want to use.

### Vocabulary

**Symbol** - an object or concept that represents, stands for, or suggests another idea, visual image, belief, or action

**Collage** - a technique using cut or torn fabric or paper and glue

**Found Object** - a thing that someone else has given or thrown away that is often repurposed by artists

**Mixed Media** - more than one material used to create artwork, such as found objects and fabric





