



OGDEN MUSEUM  
OF SOUTHERN ART

## O-original Art Activities: 3D Assemblage Inspired by Melvin Edwards



Melvin Edwards, *Wayou Tugge*, 2014, Welded steel, Courtesy of the artist and Alexander Gray Associates, New York; Stephen Friedman Gallery. London

**Melvin Edwards** is known for his dense, metal assemblages that honor the connection between African and African American art. Edward's great-great-great grandfather was a West African blacksmith and the African continent has, in his words, "always been there for me in one way or another." Blacksmithing is an important part of many African cultures.

**Build an assemblage inspired by blacksmithing.**

**SEE MELVIN EDWARDS' *WAYOU TUGGE* IN MELVIN EDWARDS: CROSSROADS PRESENTED BY THE HELIS FOUNDATION AT THE OGDEN MUSEUM OF SOUTHERN ART. CHECK OUT [OGDEN MUSEUM ONLINE](#) FOR MORE RESOURCES!**

**QUESTIONS? EMAIL [EDUCATION@OGDENMUSEUM.ORG](mailto:EDUCATION@OGDENMUSEUM.ORG).**

### Supplies

Aluminum Foil, Scissors, Masking Tape, Cardboard

### Instructions

**Step 1:** Use a marker and plate or another round object to draw a circle on a piece of cardboard.

**Step 2:** Use scissors to cut the circle out. Wrap the cardboard circle with aluminum foil. Use masking tape to tape the foil on the back side of the cardboard circle.

**Step 3:** What shapes or objects come to mind when you think of metalworking or blacksmithing? Use a marker to draw these objects on cardboard. Repeat Step 2 with your drawings.

**Step 4:** Wrap plastic or cardboard objects with aluminum to add abstract elements to your piece.

**Step 5:** Think about how you want to arrange your objects and shapes. Think about layering them, consider building up and out from the background.

**Step 6:** When you have decided on an arrangement tape them to the circle background.

**Tip:** To add more depth, cut paper into a few small strips. Roll the strips and glue them together. Next, tape the rolled paper between your objects and the background .

### Vocabulary

**Abstract** - an artwork that is comprised of shapes and colors

**Sculpture** — an artwork made from materials such as glass, wood, clay, metal that is 3D



