O-iginal Art Activities:
Paper Chain Installation
Inspired by Melvin Edwards


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.

Create a chain installation symbolizing strength.

**Supplies**
Markers, Pattern Paper, Construction Paper, Stapler

**Instructions**

**Step 1:** Melvin Edwards often incorporates chains in his work and is known for his sculptures depicting chains. What do chains symbolize to you? Maybe they symbolize togetherness or a strong bond. Think about friends, family members or community members that represent strength to you.

**Step 2:** Use scissors to cut paper into strips.

**Step 3:** Use markers to decorate the strips of paper. Write words of strength on the strips. Write the names of your friends, family members or community members that represent strength to you.

**Step 4:** Use a stapler to staple one strip into a loop. Loop another strip through, then staple. Continue to loop strips to together to create a chain.

**Step 5:** Ask your immediate family members if they want to make and add their own link in your chain. When you are finished, decide where you want to hang your chain installation.

**Vocabulary**

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

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

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

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.