



OGDEN MUSEUM
OF SOUTHERN ART

O-original Art Activities: Paper Chain Installation 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-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.

**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.**

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



