



OGDEN MUSEUM
OF SOUTHERN ART

O-riginal Art Activities: Abstract Assemblage Inspired by Sonya Young



Sonya Yong James, *Spirit is a Bone*, 2019, Cotton bedsheets, nylon, cement, plaster, paper yarn, bones, sisal, wool, cotton rope and mixed media, Collection of the artist

Sonya Yong James was born in 1971 in Knoxville, Tennessee. A lifelong Southerner, she has lived for the past forty years in Atlanta, Georgia. The studio practice of Sonya Yong James utilizes the textile techniques of weaving, knitting, spinning, dying, felting animal hair, and sewing. Combined with ceramics and found art assemblage, she engages fiber arts to produce abstract sculptures and installations. While referencing narrative and the figurative concepts of body and landscape, her works remain formally abstract.

Explore texture and draping in this O-riginal Art Activity inspired by Sonya Yong James.

SONYA YONG JAMES' SPIRIT IS A BONE IN ENTWINED: RITUAL WRAPPING AND BINDING IN CONTEMPORARY SOUTHERN ART AT THE OGDEN MUSEUM. CHECK OUT [OGDEN MUSEUM ONLINE](#) FOR MORE RESOURCES!

QUESTIONS? EMAIL EDUCATION@OGDENMUSEUM.ORG

Supplies

Found Objects, Scissors, Tape, Color Paper (Sub: Cloth, String), Sheet of Paper (Cardstock, Cardboard)

Instructions

Step 1: Choose your material. Think about what **texture** and color you want your piece to have. Examples of materials to use: string, paper, cloth etc. If you choose to use paper or cloth, use scissors to cut the material into strips. To create additional texture roll the strips into "string".

Step 2: Arrange your materials on your background. Think about the composition. What lines or shapes do the materials create across the background? Think about layering materials to create depth.

Step 3: Once you have decided on an arrangement use tape to secure your material to the back of the sheet. Notice how the material hangs and drapes in your piece.

Step 4 (Optional): Consider adding layers and more texture to your piece by draping it with another layer of the same or different material if available.

Step 5 (Optional): Add content to your piece by hanging found objects in your piece.

Vocabulary

Found object — a thing that someone else has given or thrown away that is often repurposed by artists

Texture - the surface quality of a work of art

Abstract – an artwork that is comprised of shapes and colors

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

