



OGDEN MUSEUM
OF SOUTHERN ART

O-riginal Art Activities: Found Object Assemblage Inspired by Jeffrey Cook



Jeffrey Cook, *Sacred Emblem*, Mixed media, Collection of Andy Antippas, Louisiana

Jeffrey Cook was born in New Orleans in 1961, and was raised in the culturally rich neighborhood of Central City. Cook pursued a dance career that took him around the world touring.

In the mid-80s, Cook returned to New Orleans, establishing a studio in the neighborhood of his youth, Central City. Cook began to collect debris from the street, the detritus of urban blight and renovation. With a renewed focus on visual art, he created brightly colored paintings and richly textured assemblages, sculptures and collages that spoke to the patina and spirit of his home. He began to incorporate found objects, signs, and handmade dolls to comment on the social and physical neglect of a community, combined with a nostalgia for the neighborhood's former glory and hope for the future.

Create an assemblage out of objects found in your house or neighborhood.

Supplies

Cardboard or Cardstock, Found Objects, Glue or Tape, Color Paper, Scissors, Crayons

Instructions

Step 1: Jeffrey Cook used **found objects** from his neighborhood to create art about the culture of his neighborhood. What are the characteristics of your neighborhood or home? What colors, plants, smells, sounds and people are present?

Step 2: With the permission of a parent or guardian explore your neighborhood for found objects. If you're not able to talk a walk around your neighborhood, look around your house for objects to include in your **assemblage**.

Step 3: Once you have collected materials; find a place to setup your assemblage. Use a piece of cardboard or cardstock as your base. Arrange the objects on the background. If you have color paper use scissors to cut shapes to **collage** onto your assemblage or use it to wrap your objects.

Step 4: Once you have decided on the arrangement of your objects use glue or tape to secure them to the background.

Step 5: Use crayons to add details to your assemblage. Cook used symbols, words and numbers to represent people, places and things that were important to him and his neighborhood.

Vocabulary

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

Assemblage — a work of art made by grouping found or unrelated objects together

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

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