



OGDEN MUSEUM
OF SOUTHERN ART

O-original Art Activities: Benny & George Andrews Celebrating Black History Month



Benny Andrews, *Interior with Cat*, 1988, Oil and collage,
Gift of the Benny Andrews Foundation



George Andrews, *Scramble Art*, c.1989, Oil and collage,
Gift of the Benny Andrews Foundation

Create an abstract fabric collage inspired by the work of Benny and George Andrews.

Benny Andrews was born in 1930 to a multi-racial family (Cherokee-Scottish-African American) in rural Plainview, Georgia. After becoming the first member of his family to graduate from high school, he attended Fort Valley State College supported by a scholarship. He was not allowed to attend the University of Georgia due to the color of his skin. In 1954, after serving as a military policeman in the Korean War, he used the GI Bill to attend the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, studying under Kathleen Blackshear. Benny Andrews rose from the injustices of the Jim Crow South to become a leading voice in American painting.

George Andrews was the patriarch of a highly creative family of artists and writers, who were deeply rooted in rural Georgia. Adorning rocks, furniture, women's shoes and "anything that did not move," with bold, colorful dots, he became known as "The Dot Man" in his hometown of Plainview, GA.

Supplies

Fabric or Color Paper/Pattern Paper,
Glue stick, Scissors, Cardstock

Instructions

Step 1: Look at Benny Andrews' artwork, *Interior with Cat*. Notice his use of **pattern** in his choice of materials and the shapes in the top left and right of the image. Now, look at George Andrews' artwork, *Scramble Art*. Notice Andrews' use of bold colors and geometric shapes in his work.

Step 2: Abstract art often incorporates line, shape and color to create an image. What colors, shapes or pattern will you use in your **collage**? Will your shapes be organic like Benny's or geometric like George's?

Step 3: Benny Andrews is known for his use of fabric in his paintings. Use scissors to cut out shapes from fabric, pattern or color paper.

Step 4: Think about the **composition** of your collage. How will you arrange your shapes on your background? Take some time to try different arrangements.



Step 5: Once you have decided on a composition use glue to glue your shapes in place.

Step 6: George Andrews is known for his “dot” style. Use markers to add details to your collage.

Step 7: Great job! You’ve created an abstract collage! Show your friends and family your amazing creation.

Vocabulary

Collage – artwork made of cut or torn fabric or paper and glue

Abstract – artwork that incorporates line, shape and color to create an image

Composition – the arrangement of elements within an artwork

Pattern – a repetition of specific visual elements in art

SEE BENNY ANDREWS' WORK IN BENNY ANDREWS: PERMANENT COLLECTION EXHIBITION AT THE OGDEN MUSEUM.

CHECK OUT [THE O BLOG](#) FOR MORE RESOURCES!

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