



OGDEN MUSEUM
OF SOUTHERN ART

Movement Mondays: Found Object Mini Floats



Jim Blanchard, Pageant of Rex, Watercolor, Collection of Walter Birdsall

Happy Mardi Gras! While this carnival season might look a little different this year, there are still plenty of ways to celebrate and make your surroundings festive!

Every year at Mardi Gras, hundreds of floats roll in parades throughout the city of New Orleans. The floats themselves are works of art and are a crucial part of the Mardi Gras parade experience. It takes a long process to make these detailed floats, a process that starts way before the Mardi Gras season. First, the Krewes need to come up with a theme before they can start the creation process and make the magic happen. This year, people all over New Orleans are decorating and turning their homes into parade floats in the spirit of the season.

Instructions

Step 1: With the permission of a parent or guardian, take a walk around your neighborhood to look for house floats. If you are not able to tour your neighborhood, think about the floats that you have seen in past parades and pick one that stood out to you.

Step 2: Observe the details of the float. Is there a theme that ties the float together? (examples: circus, dinosaurs, disco, etc). What items does the float use that makes the theme complete? What is your favorite detail? What colors do you notice?

Step 3: Pick a theme of your own. Once you have a theme in mind, explore your house and collect objects to build a miniature house float of your own. (If you borrow an item belonging to someone else, make sure to ask them if it's okay first) Get creative: you can turn a whole room into a float, decorate a small section of the room (like a table), or arrange your **found objects** on a box like a mini float.

Step 4: See if your family can guess what your theme is. Come up with a fun title for your float!

Vocabulary

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

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