



OGDEN MUSEUM  
OF SOUTHERN ART

**O- riginal Art Activity:**  
**Mixed Media Abstract Wonderland**  
**Inspired by Benny Andrews**



Benny Andrews, *Alice*, 1966, Oil and collage

**Benny Andrews** was born in 1930 to a multi-cultural 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. He later was able to attend college in Chicago. Benny Andrews rose from the injustices of the Jim Crow South to become a leading voice in American painting.

**SEE BENNY ANDREWS' ALICE IN THE PERMANENT COLLECTION AT OGDEN MUSEUM.**

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

**QUESTIONS? EMAIL [EDUCATION@OGDENMUEUSM.ORG](mailto:EDUCATION@OGDENMUEUSM.ORG)**

**Supplies**

Acrylic paint, Brush, Paper towels, Cup of water, Glue, White paper, Scissors and Color paper.

**Instructions**

**Step 1:** Take a look at Benny Andrews', *Alice*. In his artwork he tries to express the wonder and strangeness of this world. If you created a wonderland what would it look like? What type of plants or creatures would be a part of this world? What type of people would live there? How will you use color and shape to create abstract figures in your **painting**?

**Step 2:** You can see a variety of colors as well as **depth** in Benny Andrews piece. If you look at the artwork you notice that some of the objects within the picture are **abstract** figures.

**Step 3:** After thinking of your perfect wonderland, gather your supplies and find an area where you can freely paint. Pick a color to start with. What design will you paint with this color? Try to paint your background with many colors and figures. Remember to wash off your brush when changing colors. After painting, let the background dry.

**Step 4:** While your background is drying, use scissors to cut out different shapes and designs from the color paper. Once the paint has dried, it's time to apply those cut out pieces to your painting.

**Step 5:** Where on the painting will you put the cut outs? Remember Benny Andrews focused on how he applied the pieces of cloth to his paintings. How will you use the cut outs to make multi-colored abstract figures?

**Step 6: (Optional):** Congratulations! You've created an abstract wonderland! Show your artwork to your family and friends. Can they guess what your wonderland is about?

**Vocabulary**

**Abstract** - an artwork that is composed of shapes and colors

**Depth** -- Objects appear closer or farther away and make a two-dimensional image seem three-dimensional

**Painting** - an artwork made on a surface such as canvas or wood with oil or acrylic pigment

