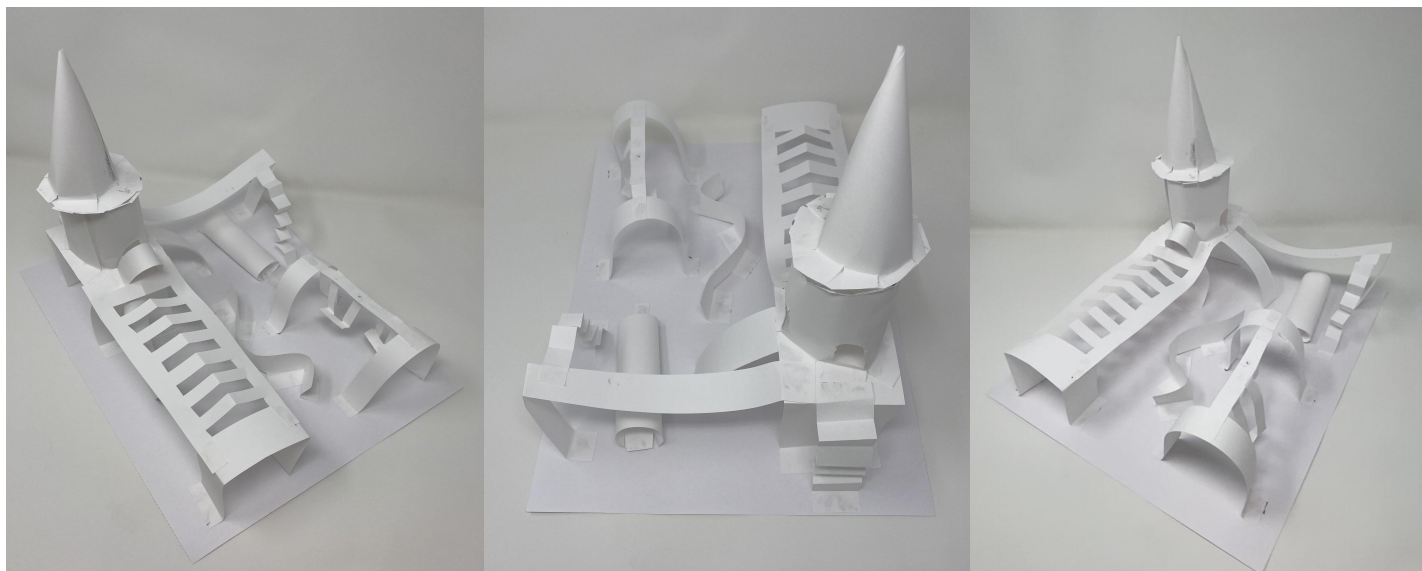


Paper Sculptures

By CJ Mitchell, Community Access Manager



Contemporary Art
Museum St. Louis



Project examples made of paper and glue. Photos: CAM staff.

Play provides an opportunity to use creative thoughts, imagination, and role-playing to develop spaces and worlds that often exist only in our dreams. Studies have shown that play has an important role in nourishing a child's well being. The playground is the realm where these dreams and imagination become possible. Artist Dominic Chambers was influenced by playgrounds throughout his childhood, which he references in the exhibition *Birthplace*. In this art activity we will use *Ghost Kingdom (2023)* as inspiration to create a world that can spark your own creative place of ingenuity.

Ages: Grades Kindergarten–12+ (5 years–Adult)

Time It Takes: 30–60 minutes

What We Are Going To Do:

- / Design
- / Sculpt
- / Cut

You'll Need:

- / Pencil
- / White Paper
- / Glue or Glue Stick
- / Clear Tape (optional)

Before We Start:

Let's look at images of Dominic Chamber's *Ghost Kingdom* (2023). The sculpture references a play structure that can be found in Fairgrounds Park in St. Louis. We usually think of playgrounds as being very bright and colorful, perhaps to invoke feelings of energy, growth, and happiness. Rather than traditional colors found on playgrounds, Chambers uses a transparent material that absorbs colors from its surroundings, including the paintings in the room and the ever changing scenic view from the window as the world unfolds outside. While looking at this sculptural form, think about the questions below.



Ghost Kingdom, 2023 Acrylic 76 x 126 x 58 inches 96 x 144 x 10 inches (plinth) Courtesy the artist and Lehmann Maupin, New York, Hong Kong, Seoul, and London

Think About:

- / What could be the artist's motivation to use clear acrylic to create this sculpture?
- / How does the transparency of the structure influence the viewer's experience?
- / What tools, instruments, or techniques might have been used to assemble this sculpture?
- / What shapes or forms do you notice in this sculpture?
- / Does this sculpture resemble any specific real buildings or structures? If so, what parts of the sculpture remind you of that particular building or structure?

Art Activity

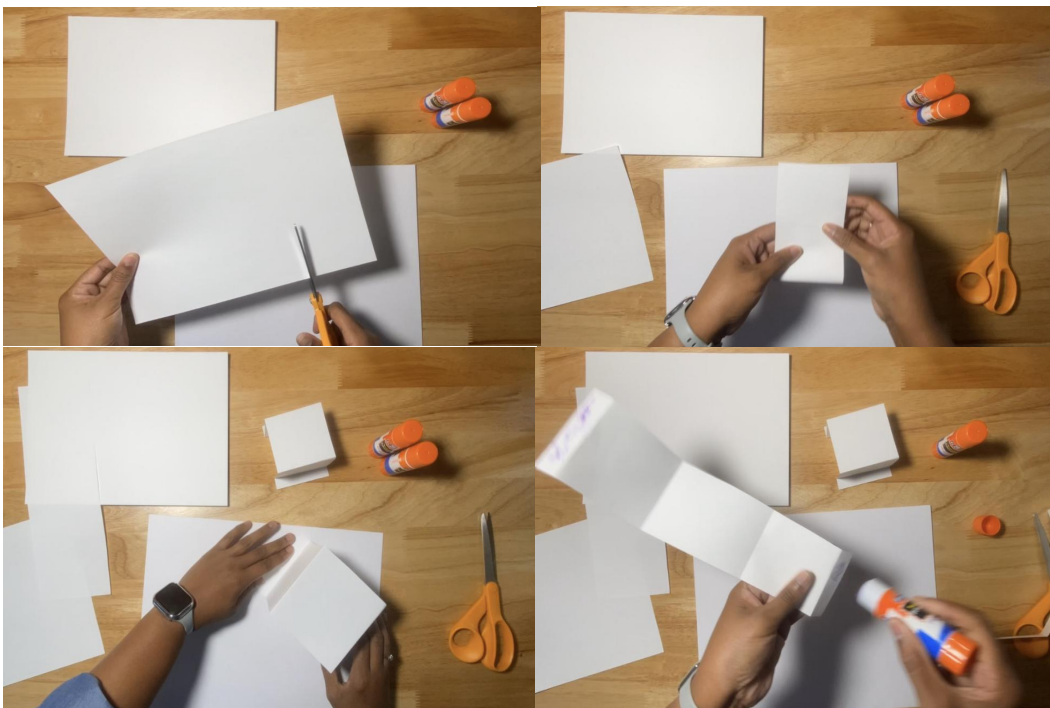
1. Use the paper sculpture techniques for ideas on how to build your playground. Ideas can be drawn out to help figure out which sculpture techniques to use.



2. Take one piece of paper, use this piece for the base of the sculpture.



3. Take another piece of paper, use scissors to cut smaller pieces to make smaller sculpture forms that will fit on the base paper. Fold, bend and or crease the paper to get the form desired. The example below is a rectangular piece of paper, bent with tabs that will be glued to the base paper.



- Continue this process of building and adding other sculptural forms to the base paper. The example below is creating a cylinder shape with tabs to be placed on top of the rectangular form already glued to the base. Openings were added to the cylinder base as well. Then glue was applied to the tabs and placed on top of the rectangular form.



- Continue adding sculptural forms to utilize most of the surface base.



6. Your sculptural form is now complete!



* An optional next step could be to experiment with color at the base of the sculptural form. Or, you could also see how different lighting affects the sculptural piece.