

Paper Tissue Art (Easy)

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Contemporary Art
Museum St. Louis



What comes to mind when you think of tissue paper? Maybe your thoughts go to its fragility or how it is used in stores to wrap a delicate item purchased so that it makes it home safely. Tissue paper has many uses from an added colorful touch to conceal the contents of a gift bag, to making crafts such as flowers, pom poms, and hanging lanterns. Or did you think of a piñata dangling from a tree limb in the backyard during a birthday celebration? The artist Justin Favela uses techniques from piñata making to create large elaborate murals about places and people of Latinx historical and cultural significance. In this art activity, you will use tissue paper to create a textured, colored piece of art.

Paper, colored tissue paper, and glue.

Ages: Kindergarten to Adults (5 years +)

Time It Takes: 1 hour

What We Are Going To Do:

- / Design
- / Draw
- / Texture (Balled Tissue Paper)

You'll Need:

- / Pencil
- / Paper Heavy Weight/Construction
- / Glue
- / Colored Tissue Paper (various colors) / Scissors
- / Cardboard (optional)

Before We Start:

Let's look at images of Justin Favela's *Ruta Madre* (2023), a site-specific artwork created for CAM's 60 foot long performance space wall. Take a slow look and closely examine the mural. Favela's murals often recreate or reference works created by other artists, especially by Latinx creators. This mural combines iconic places, images, and objects found along Route 66, one of the most famous highways in the United States. Route 66 is nicknamed "Mother Road," which translates into Spanish as "Ruta Madre," because it runs from Santa Monica, California to Chicago, Illinois. Favela includes references to murals, restaurants, and people of Latinx origin across Route 66, including a reference to its passage through St. Louis. While looking at the artwork, think about the questions below.



Justin Favela, *Ruta Madre* (installation view and details), 2023.

Think About

- / As you look, what thoughts, messages or words come to mind?
- / What might be the theme or subject of this mural?
- / What makes this mural different than conventional painted murals you have seen?
- / What areas are your eyes drawn to in the mural?
- / If this mural could have a permanent location, where do you think it could be located and why?

Art Activity

1. Decide on an image that you would like to recreate or draw your own. Try to keep it simple, such as one item or thing. A simple pencil drawing of a flower was used in the example. The size of the paper is 5 ½ X 7 inches.



2. Decide what color tissue paper you are going to use for your drawing. Then take those sheets of tissue paper and begin by folding the large sheet in half, and cut on the fold. Continue this process of folding and cutting until you end up with squares of tissue paper that are around 2 to 3 inches in height



3. Now label the areas on the paper with the color of tissue paper that will be used there. This will help you keep track of where to place each color tissue paper.

4. Take the glue and apply it in a row at the bottom of the paper. Then take a tissue paper square and use your fingers to roll into a loose ball. Place the balled tissue paper on top of the glue, and lightly press down.



5. Repeat this process gradually making your way to the top of the paper. Eventually filling the entire paper with balled tissue paper.



An alternate material to use in place of paper is cardboard, drawing a shape or object and then filling the area with different colors of balled tissue paper.

