

# Re-Purposed Materials

## Objectives

- Create a relief sculpture by arranging objects on a flat surface to create an image
- Use objects from nature, found objects, and/or trash and recyclables (see list of materials ideas).
- Your sculpture/object arrangement can be of any subject matter (see list of subjects below for ideas).
- Your sculpture/object arrangement can be any size you like. The size of your objects may determine the size of your artwork.
- It does not have to be a permanent sculpture. This allows you to use various objects around your house without destroying them. It can be an arrangement of objects on a flat surface. Try to work on a plain surface where your work will be out of the way. You might need a couple days to complete this project so find a place to work where your sculpture will not have to be deconstructed and reconstructed every time you want to work on it.
- Using many objects will allow you to capture more detail.
- Look at the many examples on my website:  
<https://lababit.weebly.com/re-purposed-materials.html>
- Click on the artist names for larger photos of the artworks to see the various objects they use to create their images. Some of these examples are really amazing when looked at up close.
- Follow the steps below to start creating. Be sure to look at the materials chart and subject matter chart for ideas.

## Steps:

- 1) Decide on subject matter and materials
- 2) Make an outline drawing of the basic image you want to create (optional but extremely helpful)
- 3) Gather objects and separate them by color or value
- 4) Start to arrange your objects on a plain flat surface, or right on top of your outline drawing, according to where you need color...
- 5) Photograph the process (a photo at the beginning stages, middle stages, and final photo)  
Consider making a time lapse of the process (completely optional but really neat)

Material Ideas						
Nature		Found Objects			Trash/Recyclables	
Grass	Sticks/twigs	Toys	Legos	Stuffed toys	Bottles	Cans
Rock/pebbles	Petals	Nail polish	Buttons	Books	Mailers	Wrappers
Leaves	Weeds	Guitar pics	Dry beans	Dry rice	Cardboard	Containers
Dirt	Fruits	Jewelry	String/yarn	Clothes	Plastic ware	Lids/caps
Vegetables	Mulch	Socks	Clothes	Cups/mugs	Containers	Toothbrush
Bark	Sand	Pet toys	Hair ties	Action figures	Sponge	Rubber
Shells	Feathers	Beads	Makeup	Tissue paper	Napkins	
		Office supplies	Coins	Kitchen utensils	Packaging materials	

Try **cutting up** bigger materials that would normally be recycled or thrown away. Cut up containers,

boxes, plastics, lids, plastic jugs, and others. **Crumple up** flat trash/recyclables like wrappers, seals, packaging plastic and paper.

Create an image of just about anything (see ideas below). Faces of people and animals tend to work well with these materials. Be careful not to choose an image with too much small detail as this will make the image difficult to decipher (unless you have a lot of time and tiny objects to work with).

Subject Matter Ideas (working from a photo or drawing makes it easier)		
Family/friend/self	Pet/animal	Favorite childhood toy
Family heirloom	Classic art reproduction	Food
	Role model/celebrity	Landscape/favorite place

**Requirements:**

- Create a drawing or print out a photo you will be working from. If you create a drawing think of it like a page from a coloring book. Outline drawings are best.
- Create the subject matter of your low relief sculpture using a minimum of 40 found objects arranged on a flat surface. Your subject matter must have some details or color variation. Avoid creating images of simplistic, solid colored things such as emojis and words.
- Create a background for your subject matter using a minimum of 20 found objects arranged around your subject matter. If your subject matter has a lot of detail a simpler background will work well.
- A minimum of 4 photos (including the finished piece) documenting the process.