

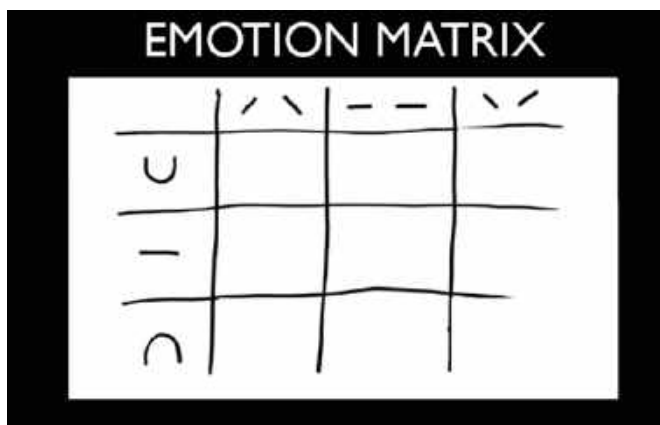
Critters from Scraps



Which Bird Are You? Janelle Patchett, 2020

Many artists save scraps of paper and other remnants because they might come in handy for new projects. While this can lead to a studio being messy, it can also feed creativity. Scraps can remind artists of animals, food, buildings etc. The artist above used scraps of construction paper to make expressive birds. Some look happy, while others look curious or worried. This week, we will rummage around to repurpose scraps, but first, we will explore what makes art look expressive.

Comic book artists know that it takes just a few lines to create facial expressions.



This emotion matrix, shared by artist Lisa Frühbeis, let's you combine eyebrows from the row across with mouths from the column down to create new expressions.

Copy the box to a sheet of paper and mix and match your way down and across. You can simply make dots for the eyes and ignore the nose. You will have a different expression in each box. This may help you when you are trying to describe your critter's moods.

You may already have some scraps of paper from other art projects that you can use, but don't worry if you don't have a box of random bits lying around. You can cut or rip up pieces of construction paper, old magazines, ads that come in the mail, wrapping paper etc. If you need to create scraps, make both blobby and geometric shapes. Don't try to make them perfect. Part of the charm of scrappy critters is their unevenness and the element of surprise.



If you do have some scraps left over from previous projects, take a look at them. Some may already remind you of different creatures. The shapes on the right were made out of leftovers from a leaf and plant project with just a couple of extra snips. You may find that they remind you of birds or dinosaurs. You don't need to know ahead of time what kind of creature you will be making. You might just try cutting here and there and see if an animal shape leaps out at you.



Supplies:

Bits of colored scraps

Scissors

Pencil

Paper for background

Glue stick

Fine line black pen

Procedure:

Sort through or create a pile of scraps.

Use scissors to make critters. No need to draw first! You can also mix together triangles (for beaks, snouts, wings, fins, feet etc.) with rectangles or blobby shapes for bodies. You don't need to make a critter out of a single scrap.

When you have a small pile of workable scraps, start to arrange them into one or more critters. You can make a recognizable animal or a fantastic creature. This is a project where planning is not necessary!



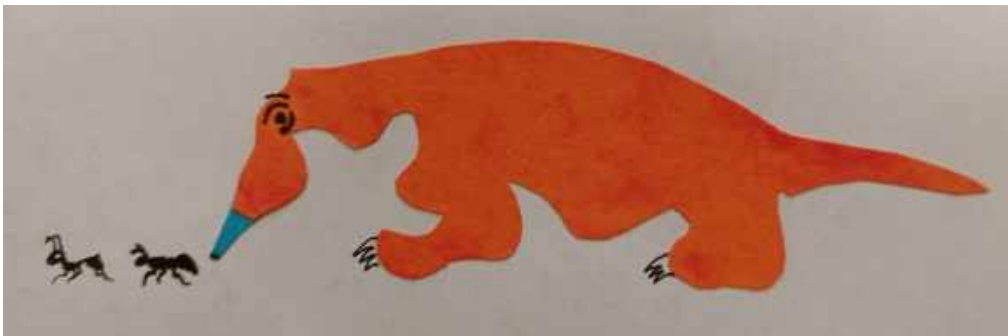
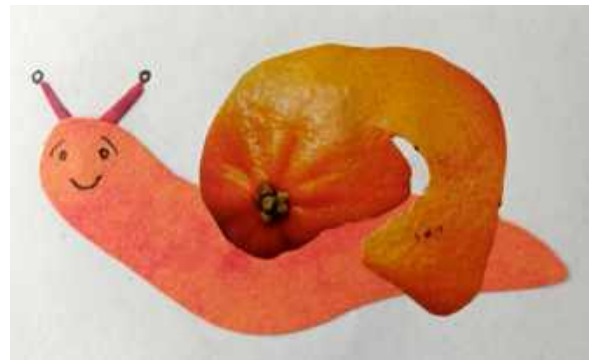
Once you have a grouping that you like, make sure you glue the pieces down in an order that makes sense. For example, in the bird-like creature at left, the back wing and crest were glued down first, followed by the beak, body, and front wing.

The pieces were laid out first, and then the top ones removed **gently** so as not to disturb the ones below. A few indicator lines were made where the bottom pieces needed to line up. They were then removed for gluing and put back carefully.

Details with black pen were added last.

This snail was created after the curving orange peel was found in a magazine ad. It looked so much like a snail shell that it sparked the idea of trimming a scrap into a snail shape.

Note the order of gluing: Tentacles (what look like antennae) first, then the body and last the shell.



This anteater is an example of a found scrap that resembled a known creature. It required just a few snips, a small scrap for the snout and details with a pen to complete.

If you share your picture to cdelnero@academyartmuseum.org, you will receive a box of art supplies!