

5 All-Ages Activities Inspired by
MOCA's 2020 Exhibitions

Created by Alexandra Brickman,
Learning Coordinator at MOCA

Carlos Bunga – A Sudden Beginning
Dornith Doherty – Archiving Eden: Exchange
Shelagh Keeley – An Embodied Haptic Space
Megan Rooney – HUSH SKY MURMUR HOLE
Sarah Sze – Images in Debris

MOCA Summer 2020 Activity Package

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158 Sterling Road
Toronto, Ontario

Museum
Of
**Contemporary
Art**
Toronto Canada

Welcome back
to MOCA!

Bring some
inspiration home
with you and try out
these five activities,
each of which is
inspired by one
of the exhibitions
currently on view at
the museum.

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Cardboard Landscape

Inspired by the work of
Carlos Bunga

At MOCA Floor 2

Carlos Bunga – *A Sudden Beginning* is on view now
until October 4th, 2020.



Carlos Bunga, *Occupy*, 2020, MOCA Toronto.

Courtesy the artist, Galeria Elba Benitez (Madrid) and Alexander and Bonin (New York). Photo by Toni Hafkenscheid.

What does cardboard make you think of? What can it be used for? Cardboard is a simple, everyday material, which can be associated with many different things, such as shelter, parcel delivery, moving, and recycling.

Carlos Bunga uses cardboard to create many of his artworks.

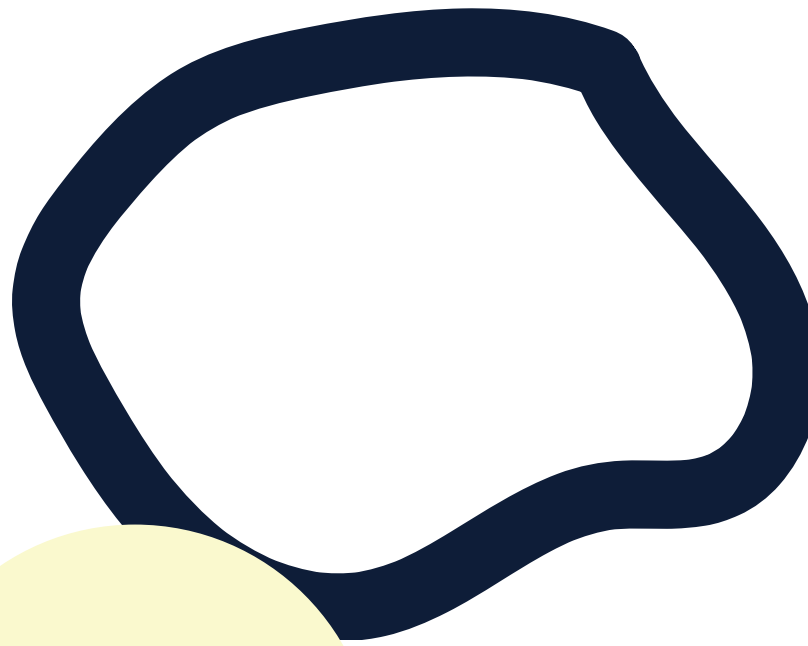
To make his large floor installation *Occupy*, Carlos arranged over 500 cardboard boxes into the landscape-like form you see, in which you are invited to walk around. How would you describe this cardboard landscape?

At Home

In the activity below, you can create a miniature cardboard landscape of your own, inspired by Bunga's work!

You will need:

- Cardboard
- Masking tape or glue
- Scissors



Step 1:

Think about what type of landscape you want to create.

Will it be flat or hilly?

Textured or smooth?

What would you feel, hear, and see if you could walk around on your cardboard landscape?

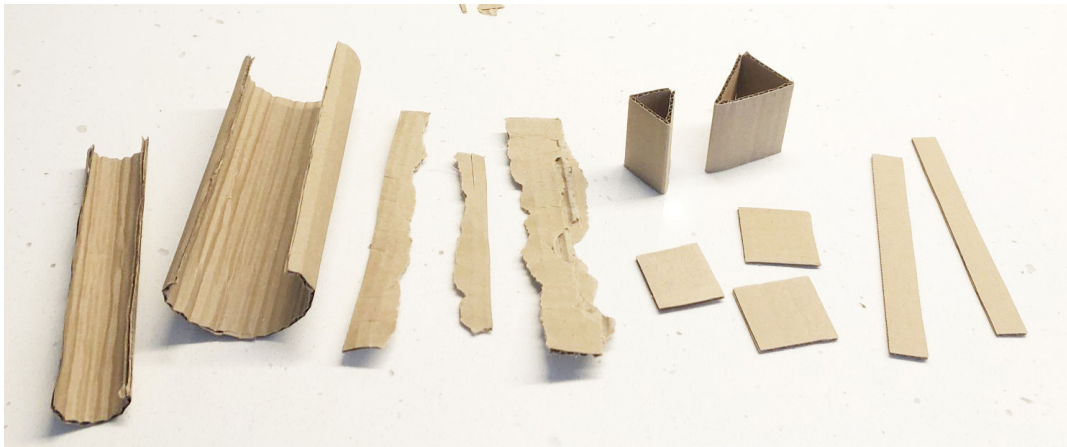
You can sketch out your landscape on paper first to help you plan.



Step 2:

You may need to ask an adult to help you cut bigger pieces of cardboard.

Begin cutting or ripping your cardboard into the shapes you need for your landscape. You may want to use one large piece as your base, and then attach smaller pieces on top.



You can make shapes and textures like:

- Rolled up tubes
- Ripped or cut long strips
- Smooth cut out shapes
- Folded triangles



What other shapes and textures can you make with cardboard?

Step 3:

Tape or glue everything together!

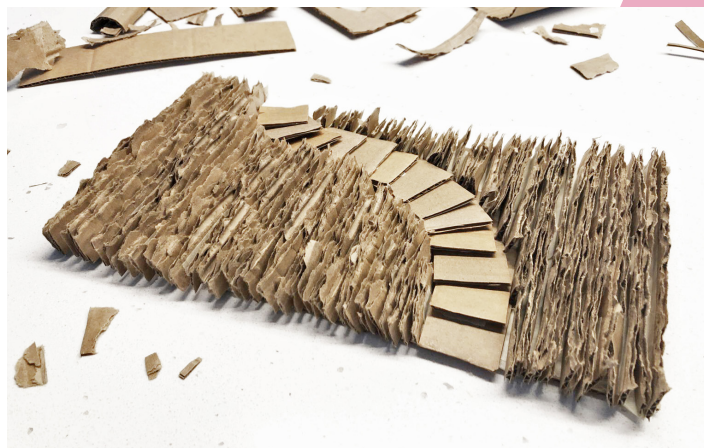
Here is an example of a cardboard landscape that represents a boardwalk going through a field of tall grass.



This was made by ripping corrugated cardboard into long strips and layering cut-out squares into a path shape.



We used masking tape to attach the cardboard as it sticks to cardboard easily.



Here is the finished piece!

Activity 2:

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Colour Exploration

Inspired by the work of
Megan Rooney

At MOCA Floor 3

Megan Rooney – *HUSH SKY MURMUR HOLE* is on
view now until September 13th, 2020.



Megan Rooney, *HUSH SKY MURMUR HOLE*, MOCA Toronto, 2020.
Courtesy the artist, DREI (Cologne). Photo by Toni Hafkenscheid.

Look around Megan Rooney's exhibition *HUSH SKY MURMUR HOLE*. Take in the floor-to-ceiling mural that Rooney painted directly onto the gallery walls. How does it make you feel? Why do you think the colours make you feel a certain way? How would you describe the atmosphere that Rooney has created?

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At Home

In this activity inspired by Megan Rooney's murals, you can explore colour and try out colour combinations to represent different feelings.

You will need:

- Paper, canvas, or any drawing surface you have (recycled cardboard works too!)
- Acrylic paint, watercolours, coloured pencils, pastels - any drawing/painting materials you have on hand will work



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Step 1:

Split a piece of paper into four sections

Either by folding in half twice or by drawing lines.

Choose four different emotions or feelings and write one in each of the four sections.

Step 2:

Think about what colours might represent the feeling you have written down in each section.



Then, create a colour palette for each one by mixing colours and combining them on the page. Try using different brush strokes such as hard lines, soft shapes, or just abstract doodles, and pay attention to how the feeling written on the page might influence the type of brushstrokes you use.

Step 3:

On a new piece of paper, now try the activity the opposite way.

Without a “feeling” prompt, choose a few colours and begin experimenting by layering them on the page.

Once again, try using different types of lines, shapes, and brushstrokes.

Here is the finished piece!



How does your finished artwork make you feel and why?

Activity 3:

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Workspace Collage

Inspired by the work of
Sarah Sze

At MOCA Floor 2

Sarah Sze – *Images in Debris* is on view now until
October 4th, 2020.



Sarah Sze, *Images in Debris*, 2018. MOCA Toronto.

Courtesy the artist, Victoria Miro Gallery, London and Tanya Bonakdar Gallery (New York and Los Angeles). Photo by Toni Hafkenscheid.

Sarah Sze's work *Images in Debris* consists of an L-shaped desk covered in hundreds of items that include art supplies, everyday objects, and home necessities. Image projections are cast onto the walls surrounding the desk, as well as within the work onto ripped paper and sheets of dried paint. This network of objects and images creates a sculptural representation of Sze's editing process and artistic studio space.

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At Home

Think about where you have been spending most of your time during the past few months. For many of us, there is a place in our home that we have settled into as our main space to work or learn.

In this collage activity, consider your working or learning space in a new way, breaking down the individual elements and objects that you surround yourself with.

You will need:

- **Paper scraps** magazine clippings, cardboard pieces, recycled newspaper – whatever you have at home or in your recycling bin!
- **Glue or tape**

A green smiley face with white eyes and a wide white smile is positioned on the left. A pink hand with a wavy line for a finger points from the smiley face towards a yellow circle on the right. The yellow circle contains the text for Step 1.

Step 1:

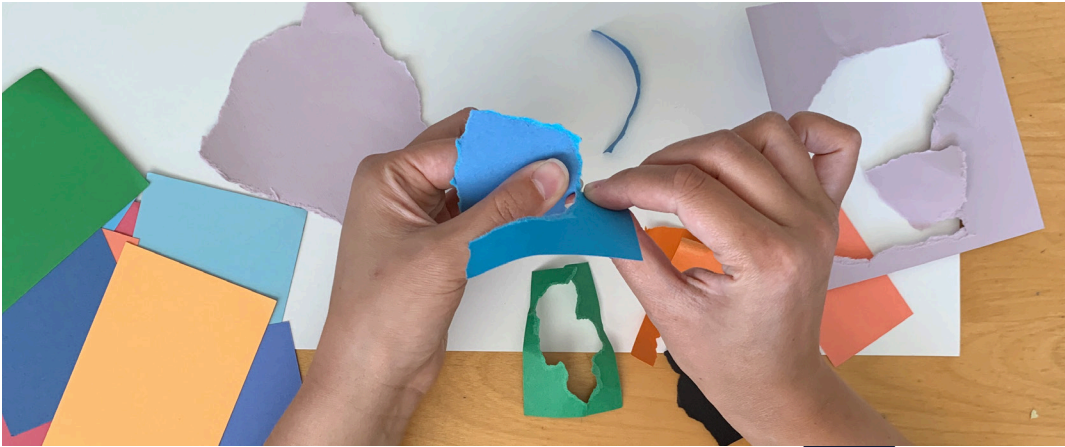
Take a look around your home workspace.

What does it look like?
Where in your home is it?
What kind of items do you like to have around you while you work?

Choose the objects or shapes you want to recreate using paper.

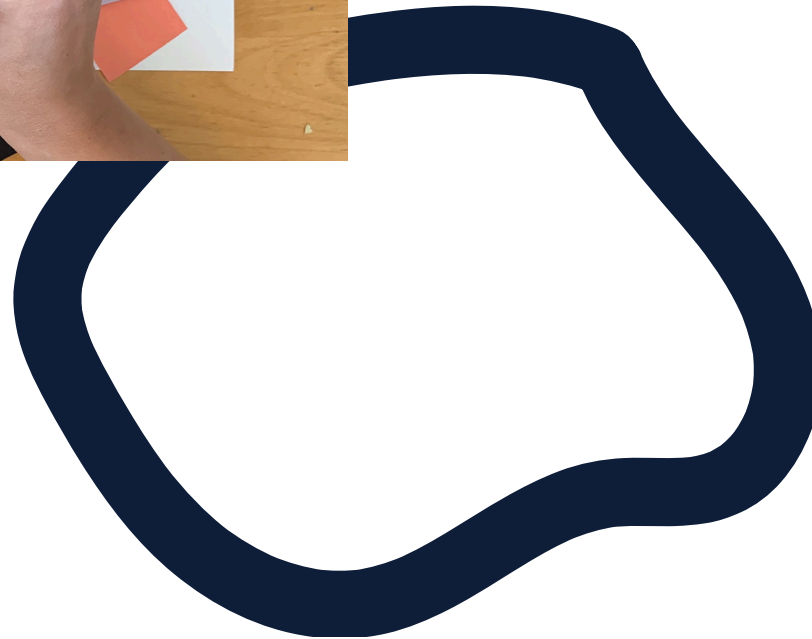
Step 2:

Start to create your paper shapes.



You can try using paper that looks like or represents the object (e.g. newspaper text to represent a book), or choose any colours or textures that you like.

You can also choose to represent your objects using large geometric shapes for a more abstract looking collage, or you can form them using more specific detail.



Like in Sarah's work, try ripping the paper with your fingers for a more textured effect.

Step 3:

Put everything together!

Glue or tape your paper shapes down in your desired arrangement.



Here is the finished piece!

Activity 4:

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Home Drawing

Inspired by the work of Shelagh Keeley

At MOCA Floor 4

Shelagh Keeley – *An Embodied Haptic Space* is on view now until September 27th, 2020.



Shelagh Keeley, *Fragments of the Factory / Unfinished Traces of Labour*, 2020. MOCA Toronto.
Courtesy the artist. Photo by Toni Hafkenscheid.

For her installation at MOCA, Shelagh Keeley combined photos she had taken at the pre-renovated MOCA building with new drawings - some created right on the gallery walls. The drawings reflect similar colours and architectural shapes to the ones we see in her photos.

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At Home

After spending lots of time at home, you have probably become quite familiar with your surroundings. You may have noticed things about your home that you never paid attention to before, such as fancy crown molding, a rounded door frame, oddly shaped window, or interesting corner.

In this activity inspired by Shelagh Keeley's work, choose a corner or feature of your home that you like and capture it - first as a photograph, and then as a painting or drawing.

You will need:

- Camera
- Paper
- Pencils, pencil crayons, or any other drawing materials you may have on hand



Step 1:

Take a moment to walk around your home and explore its many features.

Look up at the ceiling, down at the baseboards, out the windows, and perhaps into a nook or small space you've never really noticed before.

Step 2:

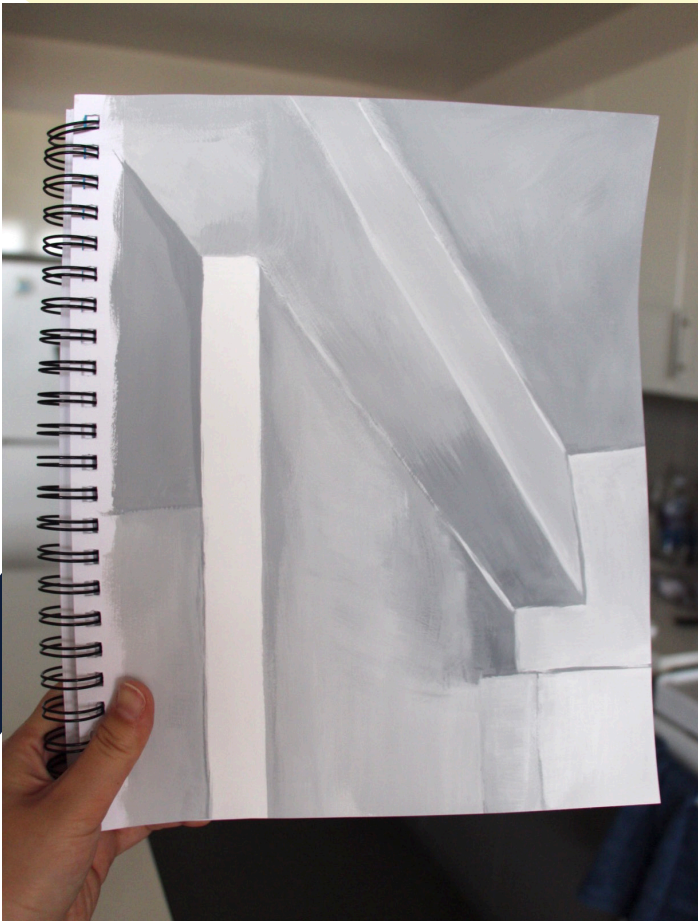
Choose an element of your home that you find interesting and take a photo of it.



You can take a photo of the whole room if you like, or you can take a close-up shot, so that feature looks more abstract.

Step 3:

Using your photo as a reference (display on your laptop or tablet for a larger view), draw or paint your interpretation of it.



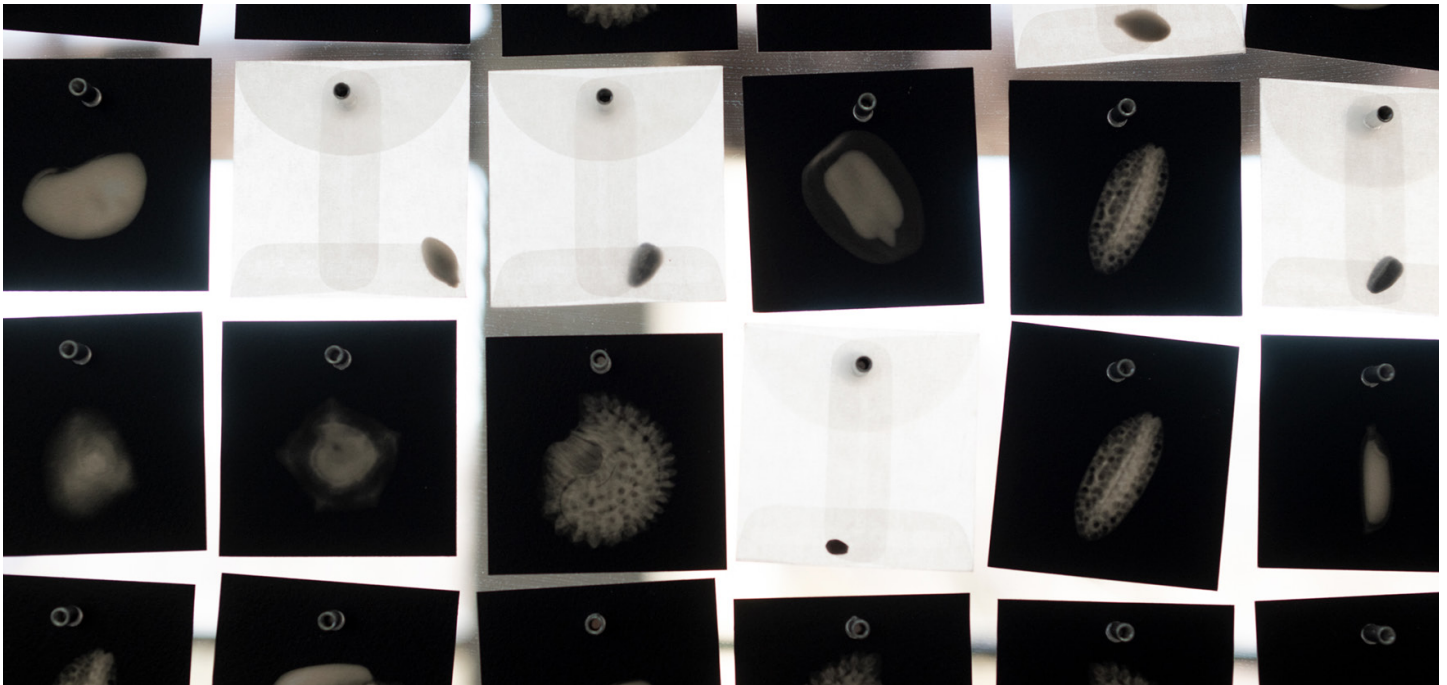
Here is the finished piece!

Seed Balls

Inspired by the work of
Dornith Doherty

At MOCA Floor 1

Dornith Doherty – *Archiving Eden: Exchange* is on view now until August 16th, 2020.



Dornith Doherty, *Vault: Exchange* (detail), Installation view at the Ontario Science Centre Toronto, Canada. April – August 2019.

Dornith Doherty's photographic project *Archiving Eden* consists of 5000 x-ray photographs of seeds that hang in a vault-like structure. This work represents the actual seed vaults located around the world, dedicated to protecting seed species and preserving biodiversity.

If you could put one seed into a seed vault, which one would you choose and why?

At Home

In this activity, make seed balls and plant them in your garden or around your neighborhood.

You will need:

- Natural air-dry clay
- Soil
- Seeds
- Spray bottle with water
- Paper towel
- Spoon



Step 1:

Scoop out a spoonful of clay with your spoon.

Flatten the piece of clay to a 6cm circle, about a $\frac{1}{2}$ cm thick.

Step 2:

Grab a pinch of soil and carefully sprinkle over the clay circle in a thin layer.

Place a pinch of seeds in the middle of the clay circle.



Step 3:

Spritz a little water onto the soil and seeds to hold everything together.

Then wrap the clay circle around the soil and seeds, rolling everything into a ball shape.



Step 4:

Let the seed balls fully air dry on a paper towel.

Once dry, depending on what type of seeds you used, you can plant them in a specific place or toss them into your garden!

We hope you enjoy the activities!

Share your work on social media and tag us @mocatoronto!