

Re-creating Artworks With Things You Find At Home

Museums and art galleries across the world have been encouraging people to re-create artworks from things they have at home. The craze particularly took off during the Covid lock downs with thousands of people getting creative. Here are my tips to get you started and maybe learn a little more about art. Some of these recreations are my own and some I have been kindly given permission to share, by the creators.

Research

Get online to research and learn about great works of art. Try browsing the websites of art galleries and museums. Alternatively you might find an interesting object in your home, then search for an artwork which includes it. Try putting a photo into a Google image search.

Look Around Your House

Have a look around you. The objects in your home might inspire your re-creation. For example, my favourite colour is yellow. The yellow objects in my home inspired me to re-create Van Gogh's *Sunflowers*.



Sunflowers, Vincent van Gogh, 1888, oil on canvass. One of a series of paintings of sunflowers.



Sunflowers, Hannah Ayre, 2020, found objects including plate & washing up brush.

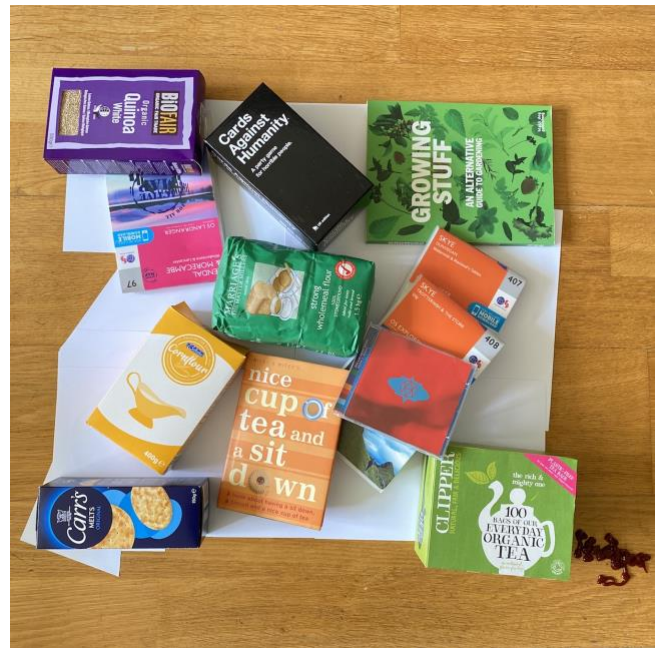
Materials

You don't need to use the same materials as the original artist. The whole point is that you are making your own version, with whatever you have to hand. Look for objects which are the same shape and colour as the objects in the original artwork.

For example here I searched my flat for square and rectangular shapes in the relevant colours. Like Matisse, I signed my artwork, but instead of paint I used BBQ sauce!



L'Escargot (The Snail), Henri Matisse, 1953, paper, gouache paint, canvass.



L'Escargot, Hannah Ayre, 2020, found objects including bread flour, tea bags and BBQ sauce.

Shape & Form

Shape is used to describe areas of a 2 dimensional work. *Form* is used to describe elements in 3D. Shape has a length and a width. Form has a length a width and also a depth. Look at the key shapes and form of the artwork you are wanting to re-create, then find objects to represent them.

Ask yourself what are the key, necessary elements of the original artwork? Aim to get the most identifiable elements right.



The Ancient of Days, William Blake, 1794, watercolour etching.



The Ancient of my Dish Rack, Erik Bohlin, 2020, found objects including dish rack, wine glass & tea towel.



Original: *Duke and Duchess of Urbino*, diptych (pair of artworks), Piero della Francesca, c.1470, oil on wood.

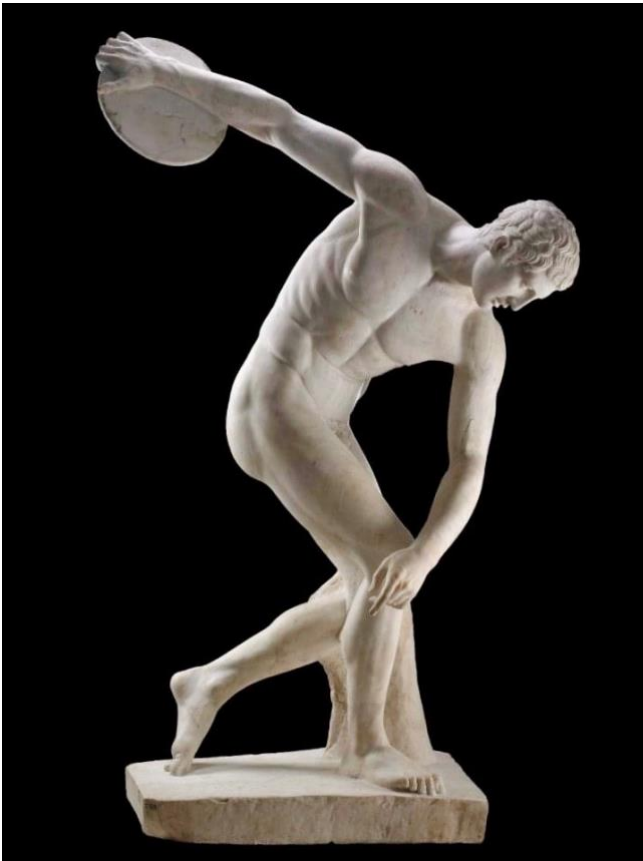
Re-creation: Amanda Danger Youngblood, found objects including paper, bowl & cork.

Fancy learning a bit of history, there's a great story about the duke's nose. Why don't you research it? Because it's a key part of this painting, the re-creator chose to emphasise it.

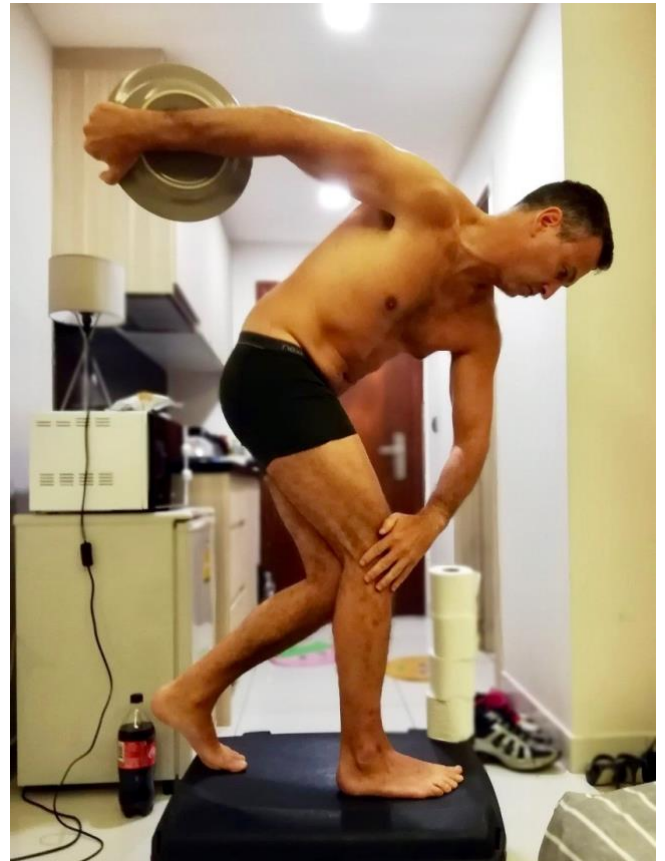
Composition

All artists need to think about their composition. This means how the ingredients are put together. Where you are positioning things? Make sure the elements in your artwork are placed in the same places as the original. Ensure any models are facing in the right direction. Beware of phones in selfie mode, it might make your image appear backwards. You can edit it later to flip it to the correct direction.

This re-creation works well because the model is copying the pose so well. Also the stack of toilet roll adds a humorous touch to such a classical work.



The Townley Discobolus, Roman sculptor, 2ndC, marble.



The Townley Discobolus, Mark Symons, 2020, human, plate, toilet roll.

Portraits

Try to copy the posture and facial expressions of the original. This is much more important than whether the model actually resembles the figure in the original. Some of the most interesting or funniest recreations are when the figure is represented by someone of a different age, gender, ethnicity, or even a pet!



The Ugly Duchess/A Grotesque Old Woman, Quentin Matsys, c.1513, oil on oak.



Save Face Recreation, Tresha Baber, 2020, clothing, bedding, paper, sharpies.



Dalí's Moustache, Philippe Halsman, c.1954.



Dalí's Moustache, Amanda Danger Youngblood, 2020, electrical tape, cable ties.

Humour

Here is a great example of a humorous recreation. The original artwork by Surrealist artist Salvador Dalí is fairly silly. The re-creation artist makes it even more daft by modernising the phone. They've also substituting the decadent lobster, with a cheap and cheerful frozen fish finger!



Lobster Telephone, Salvador Dalí, 1936, steel, plaster, rubber, resin, paper.



Seafood of the People, Tim Fleckney, 2020, fish finger, phone charging base.

A knight fighting a snail is already quite comical to our modern eyes. The rolled up sleeping bag and cardboard tubes add to the absurdity.



Medieval illuminated manuscript, anonymous scribe, c.1300, coloured pigments on parchment.



Untitled, Rachel Anderson, 2020, found objects including cardboard tubes and rolled up sleeping bag.

Toys & Pets

Kids, take a look at your toys for inspiration. Don't have enough human models? Get your toys and pets involved.



A Friend in Need, Cassius Marcellus Coolidge, 1903, oil on canvas, one of *Dogs Playing Poker* series.



A Friend in Need, Elizabeth Bell, 2020, found objects including stuffed toys, dog and cat, Tess and Merv.

This re-creation works particularly well because the artist has looked at the main elements and shapes. They have cleverly recreated it with their own pet dog, a record and a traffic cone.



His Master's Voice, Francis Barraud, 1890s, paint on canvas. Nipper the dog.



His Master's Voice, Steve Hicks, 2020, cardboard box, record, traffic cone, Willow the dog

Lego is another useful medium for your re-creations.



The Haywain, John Constable, 1821, oil on canvas.



The Haywain, Anthony Head, 2020, Lego.



House, Rachel Whiteread, 1993, cast concrete.



House, Rachel Warren, 2020, dental alginate and lego.

Food

Food can be a useful medium for your artworks. Have a rummage in your kitchen, it might give you some inspiration.



Bond Of Union, M.C. Escher, 1956, lithograph.



Bond Of Union, Lisa Parkin, 2020, orange peel, Smarties and googly eyes.

The inclusion of the Smarties packet isn't representing anything from the original artwork, but it adds to the humour and overall aesthetics of the re-creation.



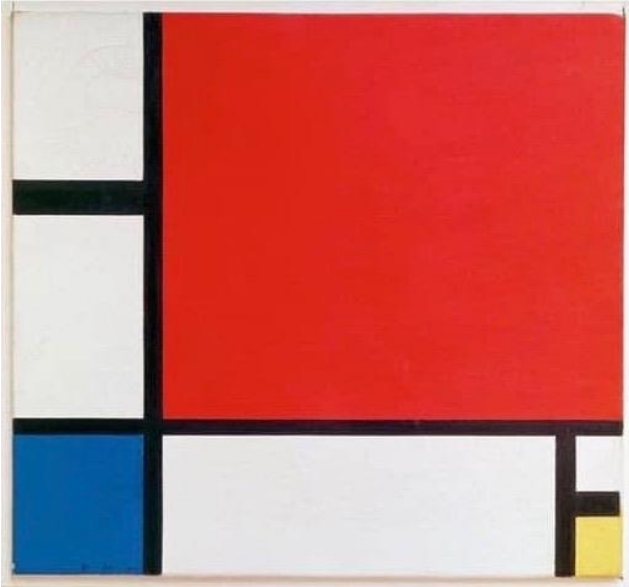
Mont Sainte-Victoire, Paul Cézanne, 1900, oil on canvass.



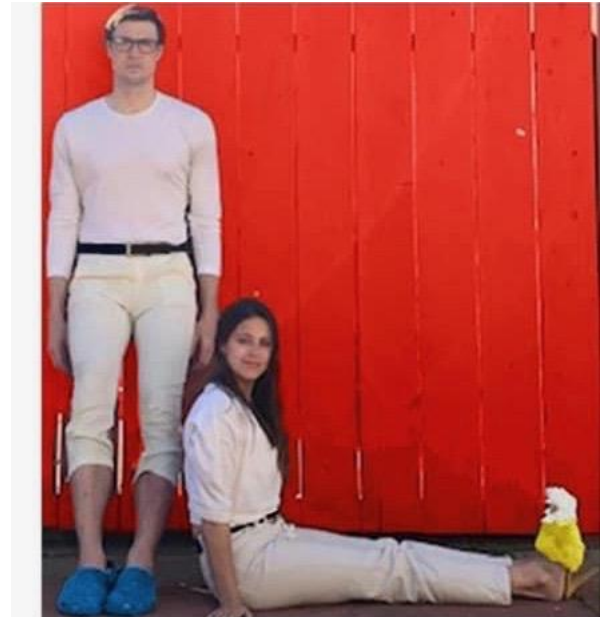
Mont Sainte-Victoire, Chris Dancer & Diane Shepherd, 2020, rice, lentils & broccoli.

Colour

This couple of re-creation artists looked at the bold, simple blocks of colour in this painting.



Composition with Red, Blue and Yellow, Piet Mondrian, 1930, oil & paper on canvass.



Composition with Red, Blue and Yellow, Jayna Thorn & Jason Thornado, 2020, fence, clothing & black belts.

Exploring Pattern

Many artists use pattern in their work. Can you find innovative ways to represent it?



Colour Study, Squares with Concentric Circles, Wassily Kandinsky, 1913, watercolour, gouache & crayon on paper.



Colour Study, Squares with Concentric Circles, Jonny & Louise, 2020, found objects including tea towels, golf balls and a waffle.

Texture

In this re-creation, fabric has been used echo the movement and texture of the waves.



The Great Wave Off Kanagawa, Katsushika Hokusai, c.1829-1833, woodblock print.



The Great Wave Off Kanagawa, Jules Hyde, 2020, textiles on bed.

Here the re-creation artist could have cropped the photo to remove the headboard and bedside table, but those elements actually add a little humour and a domestic feel to the image.



Starry Night, Vincent van Gogh, 1889, oil on canvass.



Starry Night, Simon Carpenter, 2020, textiles, aluminium foil, glow sticks & LEDs.

Here, fabric has been used to represent the expressive brushwork of post-impressionist painter Vincent van Gogh.

Lighting

Look at the light and shade of the original artwork. If, like with this painting, the light is a crucial part of the mood, see if you can recreate it using natural daylight, a lamp or a torch.



Girl with a Pearl Earring, Johannes Vermeer, c.1665, oil on canvas.



Girl with a Pearl Earring, Amber Bardell, 2020, textiles, earring.
Instagram: @amberbardell

Collaboration

Will you be a solo re-creation artist, or a collaborator? Both ways of working can be equally rewarding. In my work I enjoy working alone, but also frequently collaborate with other artists and participants. With other people to help, it allows the potential for your artwork to be even more ambitious. If you live with others, get them involved as collaborative artists, models, prop makers or photographers.

Scale & Proportions

Think about the size of the objects in your composition. How do they appear next to one another? Here's an example of a simple yet brilliant composition. In the foreground you can see the main cauliflower. In the middle ground, there's a smaller floret of cauliflower. In the background there's a tree. Obviously a tree is considerably larger than a cauliflower, but at this distance it appears at the perfect scale to re-create the painting. Playing with scale can be fun for both aesthetic and humorous purposes.



The Three Sphinxes of Bikini, Salvador Dalí, 1947, oil on canvass.



The Three Sphinxes of Bikini, Will Haward, 2020, cauliflower, foil, tree & ribbon.

Good luck making your recreations!
I'd love to see them. You can tag me at:

 @hannah.ayre  @HannahAyreArtsEducation

Check my website hannahayre.com for more tutorials ☺