

**Great Falls Art Enrichment**  
**Joseph Cornell (1903-1972)**  
**Project Instructions**

**SUPPLIES:**

Cardboard boxes (TO BE ASSEMBLED BEFORE CLASS)

Liquid glue (though students should be encouraged to use their own)

Scissors (students should use their own)

Glue sticks

Packing tape (for assembling boxes)

Scotch tape (for decorating boxes)

Construction and wrapping papers

Newspapers and magazines for clippings

Photocopies of Cornell-themed images like theater, ballet, art, movies, architecture, birds, toys, and constellations, plus photocopies of sheet music, crossword puzzles and maps

Objects divided into bags, boxes and bins by category, such as small toys, shells, coins, feathers, spools, buttons, alphabet blocks and beads, etc.

Pipe cleaners and straws to allow objects to stand up

Twistees and yarn with which to hang objects

Small boxes on and in which to place objects

**PROJECT: Assemblage Shadow Boxes**

1. BEFORE CLASS, VOLUNTEERS SHOULD ASSEMBLE THE CARDBOARD BOXES using the packing tape to tape the back of the boxes and then cutting off all four flaps.
2. Each child should receive a box and decide first whether to make the box horizontal or vertical.
3. Each child should then choose a theme for their box. They may choose a Cornell-inspired theme such as theater, art, ballet, movies, architecture, birds, toys or constellations, or they may choose a theme of their own, such as one of their hobbies or pastimes.
4. Students may line their box with any of the assorted papers in the carts – construction paper, wrapping paper, newspaper or magazine clippings, and/or photocopies of sheet music, maps, etc., using glue sticks.
5. Students should then fill their box with objects related to their theme, using their choice of objects and the assorted materials on the cart and objects on the carts. However, they should restrict objects taken from the cart to a reasonable number – say, six.

6. To create the multiple dimensions that characterize Cornell's boxes, other than through objects alone, students may:
  - a. Glue or tape a small box, with or without the lid, to the main box and then place objects on or in the smaller box;
  - b. Tape a small object or a paper cut-out to a pipe cleaner or straw and then tape the pipe cleaner or straw to the main box so that it stands up on the floor of the box; or
  - c. String or hang an object to wire or yarn so that it hangs down from the roof of the box.
7. Students may add words to their boxes as Cornell sometimes did by cutting words or letters from magazine and newspaper clippings or by combining alphabet beads.
8. Students should use glue stick for papers; liquid glue for feathers and many objects; and scotch tape or scotch tape plus liquid glue for other objects.
9. This is a project with very full and overflowing carts that the art committee has carefully obtained and organized. **PLEASE KEEP CARTS IN THE SAME NEAT, ORGANIZED AND COMPARTMENTALIZED ORDER THEY STARTED IN.**
10. Students should be encouraged to take their boxes home **OUTSIDE THE BACKPACKS** so they don't get messed up.