



Make art

with the
Art Gallery
of New
South Wales
Paper birds
and flowers

Art
Gallery
NSW



Do you love to draw, paint and make things?

Artists love to create.

They make drawings, prints, paintings, sculptures and other things for us to look at. Some artists love to look at nature and make art inspired by the decorative patterns and shapes of plants and wildlife.

Look at these artworks from the Art Gallery of New South Wales, become an artist and make your own nature-inspired creations.

above: Unknown artist **Summer kimono (katabira)** 1750–1850 (detail), plain weave ramie (asa), paste-resist dyeing (yu-zen), stencilled imitation tie-dyeing (kata kanoko) and silk and metallic thread embroidery, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Asian Benefactors Fund 2014; right: Nozaki Shin'ichi **Flowers, birds and small animals of the four seasons** 1850–1900 (detail), handscroll; ink and colour on silk, Art Gallery of New South Wales, purchased with funds provided by W Schmidlin & D Apelbaum and Asian Collection Benefactors Fund 2014. Photos: © AGNSW

We acknowledge the Gadigal of the Eora Nation, the traditional custodians of the Country on which the Art Gallery of New South Wales stands.

Paper birds and flowers

cover: Awazu Kiyoshi
February – plum
(detail), from the series
Fantasies on Japanese
playing cards (set
No 2) 1982, colour
woodcut, Art Gallery
of New South Wales,
Yasuko Myer Bequest
Fund 1998 © Estate
of Kiyoshi Awazu.
Photo: © AGNSW

Artists often depict birds and flowers using simplified shapes and colours. Decorative paper birds and flowers can be made out of simple shapes such as circles, triangles and rectangles with some clever folding and cutting techniques.

Make your own paper birds and flowers influenced by these artworks.

Remember, you are the artist so you can decide on the colours, the patterns and how you could use your art to decorate your home.

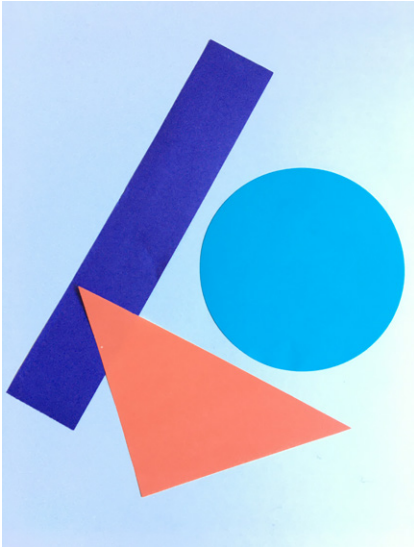
You will need:

Scissors
Glue
Sticky tape
Coloured paper shapes
Ruler
Straws
Marker pens
String
Your imagination!



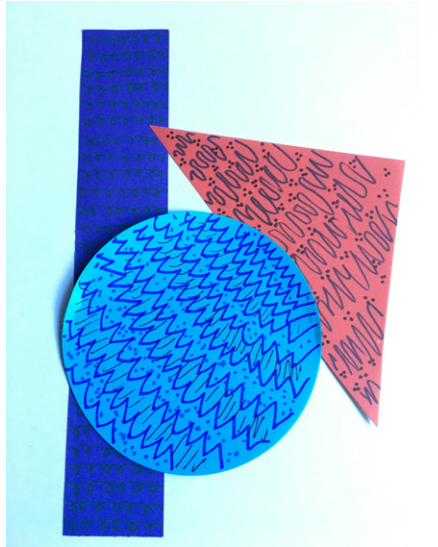
1

To make a paper bird, start with a circle, a triangle and a rectangular strip cut to about the width of a ruler.



2

Invent your own patterns and decorate the shapes using marker pens. Think about what colours you will use and the textures you can create.



3

Fold all three shapes in half. Fold the ends of the triangle back over the crease in the middle to make a wing shape. Cut the end off the rectangle to make a pointed shape and cut thin strips into the other end.



4

Open out the circle and rectangle shapes and glue the rectangle to the circle. The pointed tip of the rectangle should stick out past the edge of the circle. Fold them in half again.



5

Glue the wings over the folded circle with the centre point of the triangle facing the bird's beak. You could sticky tape a straw inside the circle and glue it down to make your bird into a puppet.



6

Or you could make lots of birds and sticky tape string inside them to make a garland to decorate your home. The possibilities are endless!

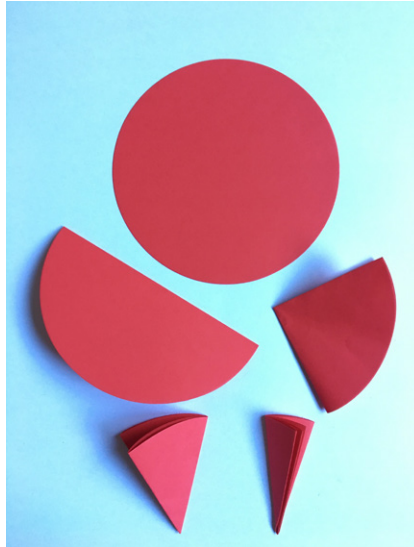


You will need:

Scissors
Sticky tape
Coloured paper shapes
Fold-back pins
Straws, chenille stems
Cupcake cases
Your imagination!

1

To make a paper flower, take a circle shape and fold in half, then in half again to make a quarter, then in half again and again. Repeat so you have three folded circles.



2

Cut the wider end of your folded circles to make them look like petals. Tip: make each one slightly smaller than the other.



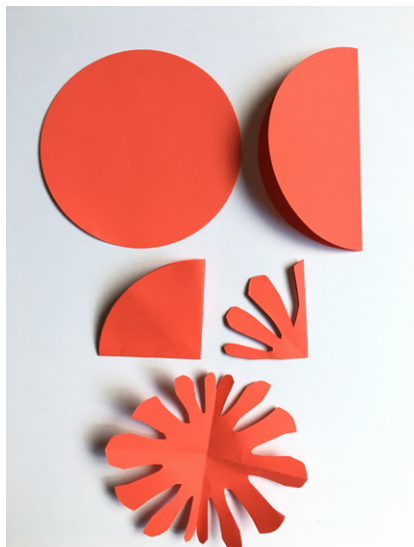
3

Open the circles out so you can see your flower shapes.



4

You can fold your circle to become a quarter and cut a more organic shape if you don't want all your petal shapes too even.



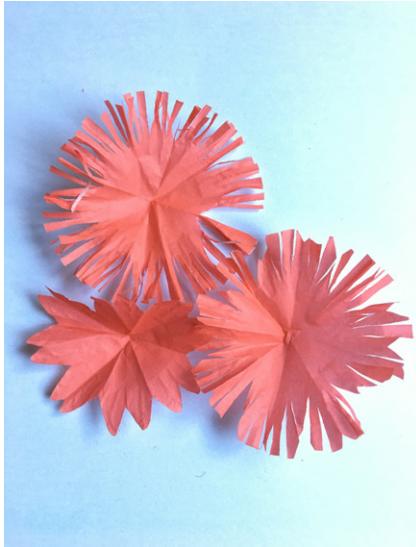
5

Repeat the process with some cupcake cases. Fold them four times and then cut petal shapes or make lots of little cuts into the paper.



6

Open the cupcake cases out so you can see your shapes.



7

Take a fold-back pin and push it through the front of each cupcake case, adding one at a time.



8

Push the pin through your paper flower shapes and fold back the two ends to secure it. Ruffle and squeeze up the cupcake cases to hide the pin at the front of the flower.



9

You could make more flowers and sticky tape a chenille stem to each one to make a bunch of flowers to put in a vase.



10

Or you could sticky tape or tie the flowers to a piece of ribbon to make a garland to decorate your home.



11

Or what about sticky taping a safety pin to the back of a flower so you can wear it as a brooch?

