



Artist:

El Anatsui

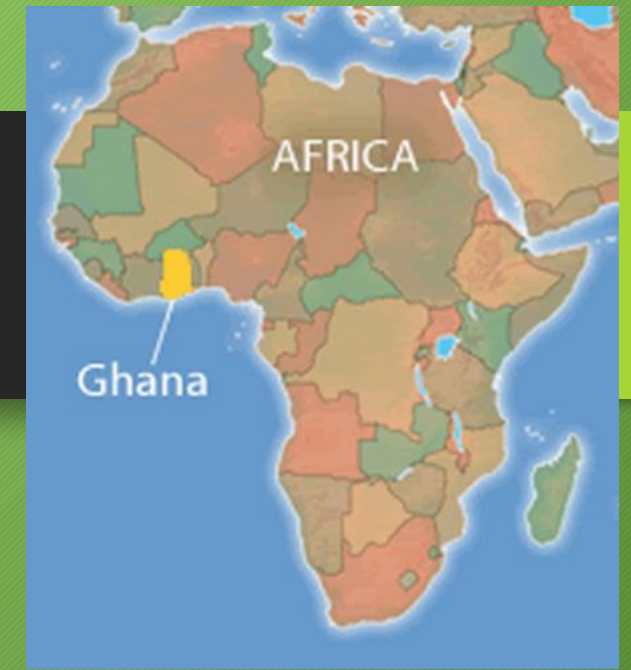
February 4<sup>th</sup> 1944 – current

# Found objects & Collaborative Art

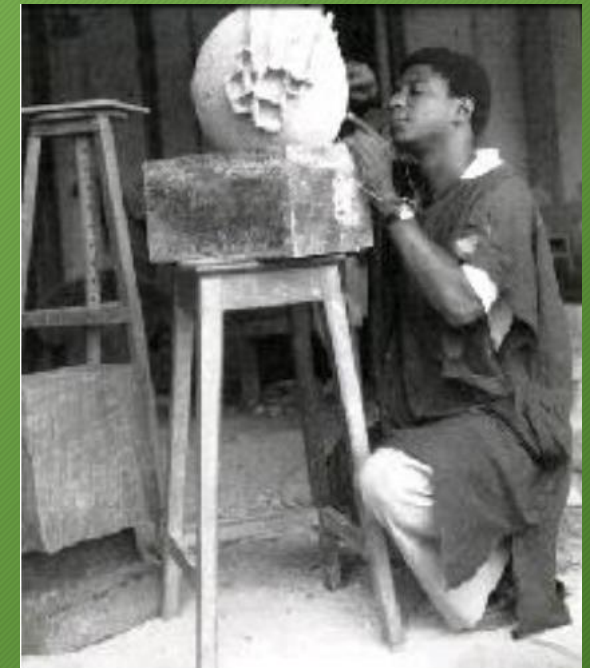
*“I’ve always believed that art is not a practice in which you keep to tradition. Tradition is there to give you a springboard. Tradition is there to show us what there is to change, or what not to change.” – El Anatsui*



# About El Anatsui:



- El Anatsui is a Ghanaian sculptor but has spent much of his career living and working in Nigeria.
- He was born in Ghana in 1944 and is one of 32 children.
- His Mother was an artist and great dress maker.
- As a child he loved to go to the library and read about art, he even won a prize in high school for his art.
- Later in life, he acquired an art degree and began teaching sculpture at a University in Nigeria, where he spent much of his career living and working.
- El Anatsui is one of the most famous artists in African history.
- He helps lots of people in Ghana and Nigeria, not just artists.



The young Anatsui working on a ceramic sculpture in 1979



He uses teams of other artists to help him make these large scale sculptures - a collaboration of sorts. Each one making a smaller bit to then put together for the big final project.



He is known for his large-scale sculptures, made from discarded materials such as bottle caps and aluminum foil. His “bottle-top installations” consist of thousands of aluminum pieces sourced from recycling stations and sewn together with copper wire. These materials are then transformed into metallic cloth-like wall sculptures.



# What is Collaborative Art?

Collaboration art means:

Generally, when artists collaborate, they are all using their own skills and talents to achieve a common goal. Sometimes they do exactly as they are told, and sometimes they get to be very creative.



# What is Found Art?

Found objects in art means:

Natural or man-made objects that are found (or sometimes bought) by an artist and kept because of some intrinsic interest the artist sees in it. Many times, this term is used to describe discarded objects that are repurposed into art.



“Tea with Barbie” by Susan Parrish



“Electric Dress” by Atsuko Tanaka

# Supplies & craft:

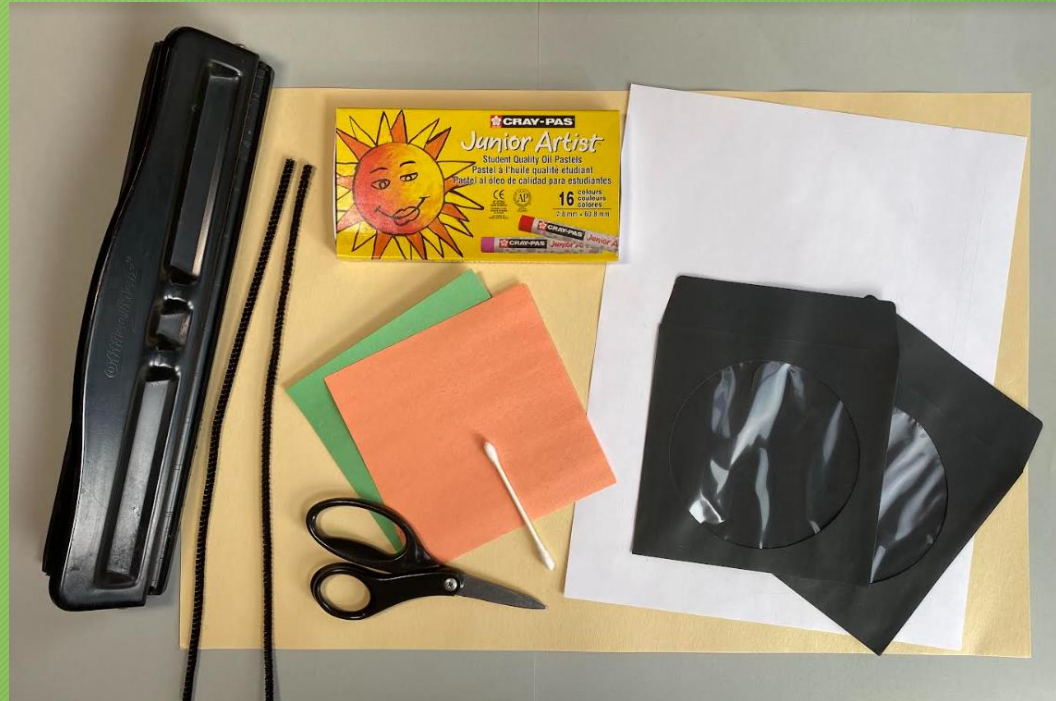
Today we will be making collaborative art using repurposed supplies. Each student will make 1-2 pieces of art that we will stitch together into a larger piece of art.

## Supplies:

- Sticker paper
- CD envelopes
- Square paper
- Oil pastels
- Cotton swabs
- Hole punch
- Pipe cleaners
- Manilla paper to protect desks

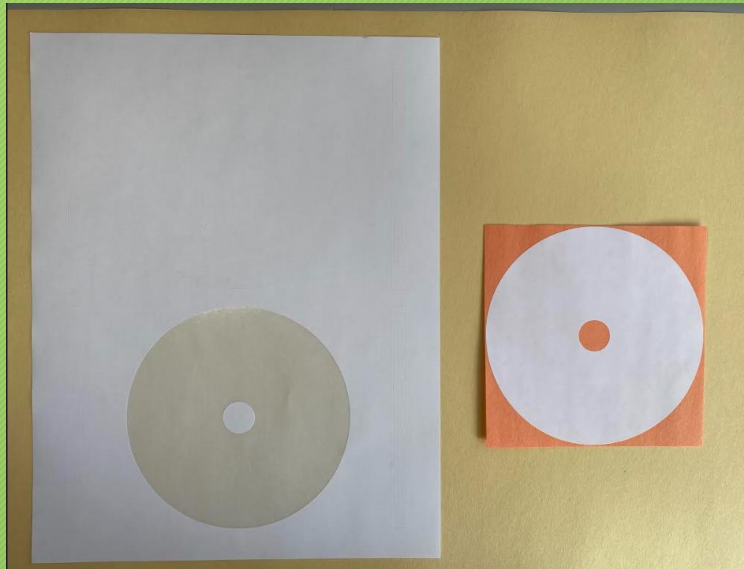
## Optional:

- Scissors
- Paper towels

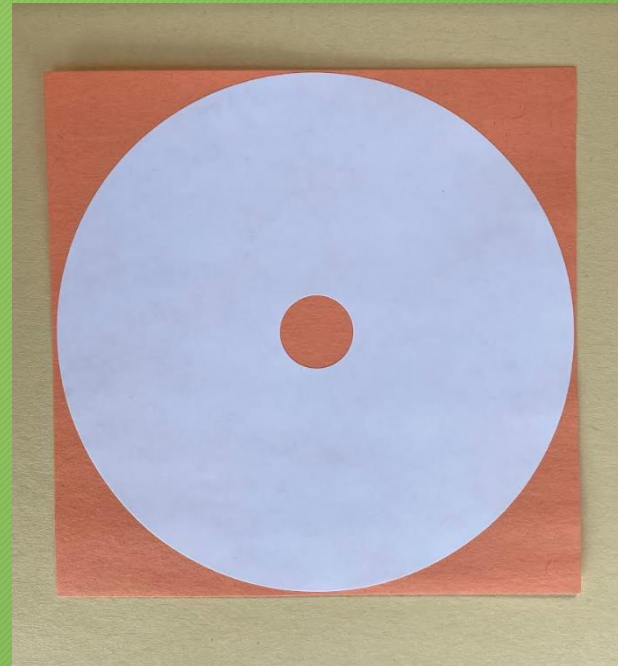


The majority of the supplies used in this lesson have been repurposed. The sticker paper and cd cases were donated to the school by Teacher Correa's (4<sup>th</sup> grade) father. The construction paper is leftover from past art docent projects. The oil pastels are part of our art docent art supplies and have also been used for past projects.

# How to:



1. Peel off the round CD sticker and place it on the square construction paper.



2. Use the oil pastels to draw designs on the sticker paper. Only the round areas will show through the window of the CD Envelope so you don't need to color the corners of the paper.

# How to:



3. You can use a cotton swab to draw designs in the oil pastels and blend the colors.

4. You can color areas of the sticker paper to use as part of the design. There is a long rectangular shape you can use, a circle shape, you can also color other areas of the sticker paper and cut out shapes with a scissors.

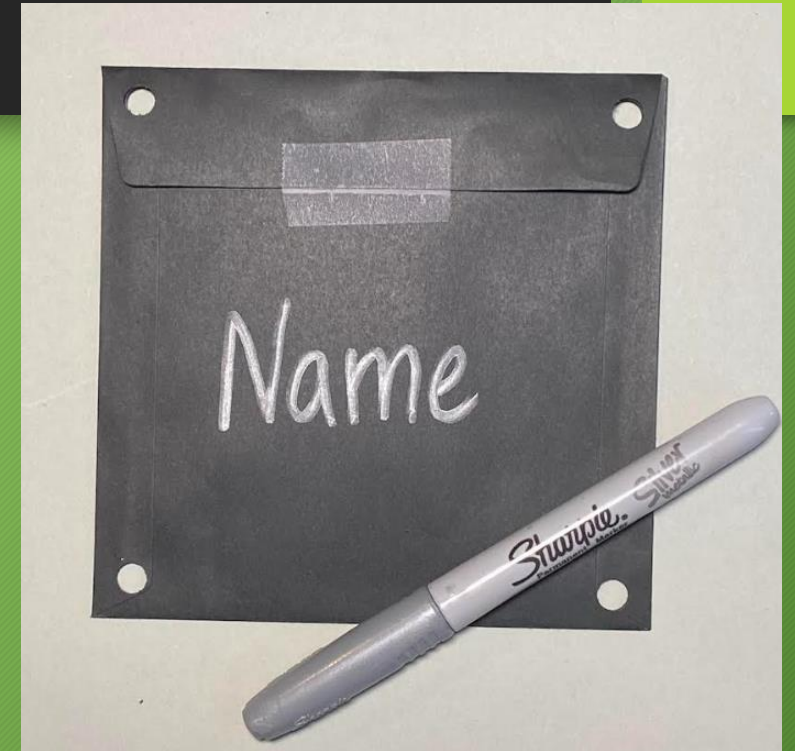
# How to:



5. When you are finished with your design, put it into a CD envelope.



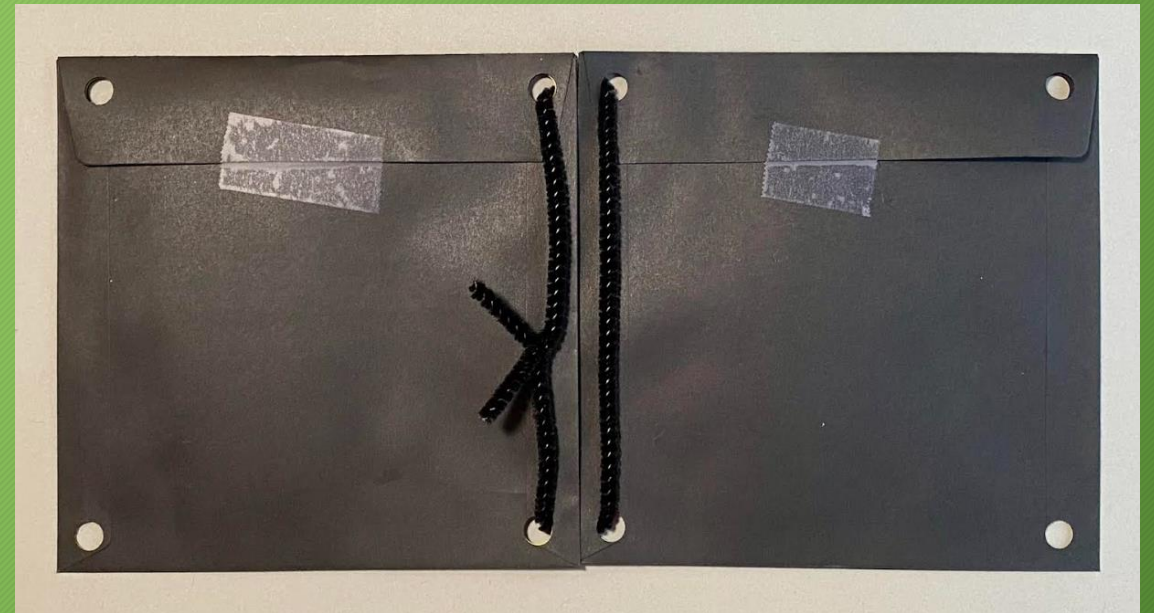
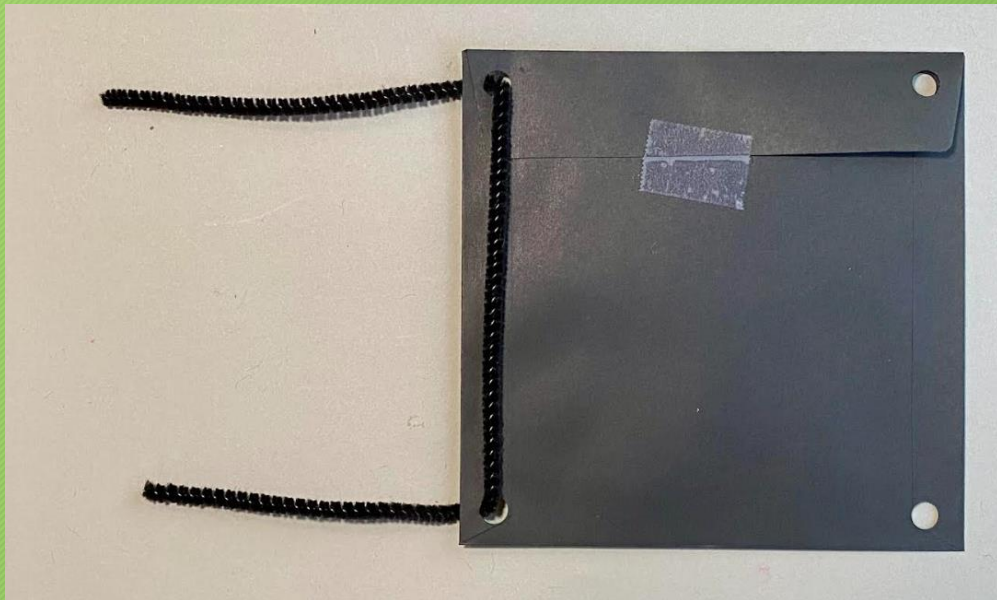
6. Have a grown-up help you punch holes in the envelope.



7. Make sure to write your name on the back.



# How to:



8. Use a pipe cleaner to stitch the envelopes together.

# The end:



9. Stitch all the artwork from your class together with pipe cleaners to make a collaborative art piece.