

# Kinder - 5th

## Art Docent lesson

# March 2025



# Mark Bradford



1961 - Current

**Bradford was born in Los Angeles California. He still lives and works there today.**

**Growing up his mother owned and operated a hair salon. Before going to art school at the age of 30, he worked at his mothers hair salon as a hairdresser. In the salon is where he first learned about texture and layering.**





**Bradford's art is made up of paintings, videos, photography, and making HUGE pieces of art out of paper.**



**He is most well known for his art technique that is done by tearing, ripping, and glueing paper to create interesting designs.**

**He describes the way he makes art as "painting with paper" or "paper-on-canvas storytelling"**

**Bradford wants his art to explore important ideas like people's lives, history, and how different groups of people are connected to each other.**

**He helped start a program to teach kids art skills and show them how art is important in society.**

**His artwork has been in some very famous art galleries throughout the world. He has also won many awards. In 2023 he own the U.S. National Medal of Arts.**



## Bradford's work is often defined as Abstract and Collage:

**Abstract** = A style of art that uses shapes, colors, and forms to create a visual effect vs depicting reality.

**Collage** = A art technique that involves gluing pieces of paper, photos, or other materials onto a surface to create an image. The word "collage" comes from the French word coller, which means "to glue" or "to stick together".

Its abstract, so it's up to you to imagine what it might represent.

What do you see?





**What is it, though?**

**Is it a landscape of a city? Or fireworks?  
A web? A Map? Meeting points? It could  
be any of these things.**

**This work is titled “Los Moscos”, means "The Flies" in Spanish.**

**This piece helps us pay attention to groups of people who haven't always been treated fairly. It shows their struggles and lives so we can understand them more.**

**Bradford created this work by collecting hundreds of pieces of paper he found in his neighborhood; newspapers, fluorescent papers, posters, packaging paper, billboard paper, and even paper used in his Mother's hair salon.**

**In his work he cuts, tears, and scrapes through the layers to reveal hidden textures, colors, and patterns.**



Watch the video to see him make it in action - <https://youtu.be/KvX7bSbQ150?si=opoQYoKIVZzVPz8x>

Questions for after the video:

- What materials did he use?
- Did you notice the layers, what does he say how he builds them?
- How would you describe the way he works?

**“Pickett’s Charge” 2017**  
This art piece is so big it's as big as a football field.

## The project:

### Supplies needed:

- Markers
- 1 chipboard piece
- 1 Woodside Elementary picture
- Glue in a cup
- 1 paint brush
- 18 pieces of newspaper
- 10 pieces of construction paper - various colors
- 7 to 9 pieces of yarn - various colors and lengths
- Baby wipes



**Step 1:**

Put your name on the back of the chipboard.

**Step 2:**

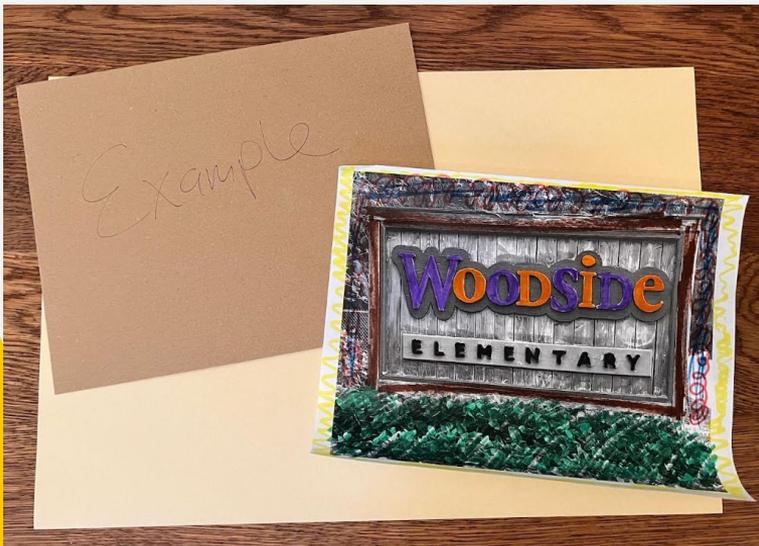
Color the Woodside Elementary picture and set aside.

**Step 3:**

Brush some glue down on the chipboard. Begin to layer, in no specific order, the newspaper, yarn, and construction paper.

**HINTS:**

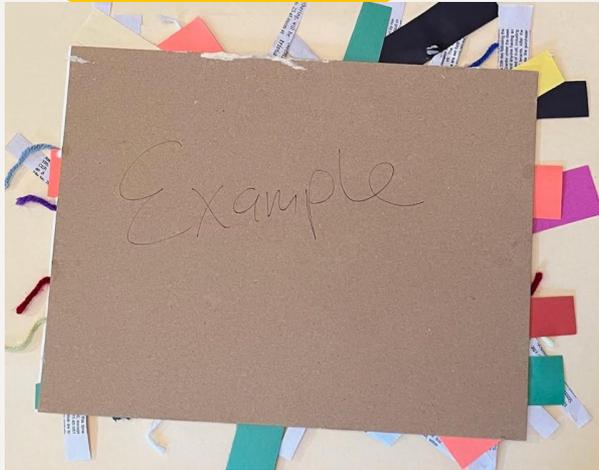
- Be sure to use a good amount of glue for it all to stick.
- Be sure to have the yarn hang over the clipboard. This will make it easier to tear off when dried.





#### Step 4:

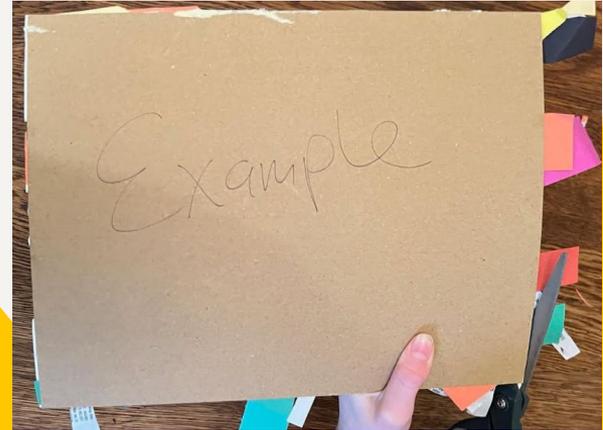
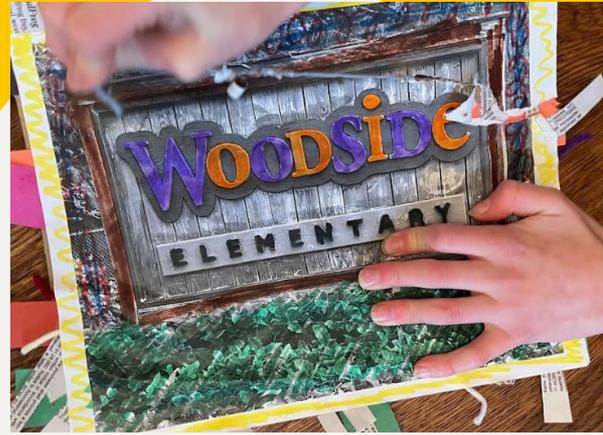
Place the remaining glue over the top and press the Woodside picture on top. Be sure to have them picture line up with the clipboard



#### Step 5:

Wait for it to dry! (If you rip it up while wet, you won't get the same effect.)

Once dried, pull the strings from the sides to get the ripped effect like Bradford. Then trim off the overhanging paper.





THE  
END

