Valentine Heart Garland

Project
Use decorative or colored papers found at home to create your own Valentine’s decoration.

Samples

Sample: Construction paper collage garland

Sample: Tissue paper collage

Sample: Magazine collage heart

Inspiration

Artist Jim Dine has made art using heart shapes for a long time. In *The World (For Anne Waldman)* (1972), he repeats heart shapes over and over again to create his print. Look at the print and see what you notice. What words did Dine write over the hearts? Why might he have done this? What do you think Dine might have meant by using the hearts and other images in this picture?

Vocabulary

**Collage:** a type of art made by attaching different materials (like paper or photographs) to another surface (like paper, canvas or other fabrics)

**Garland:** a decorative wreath or chain, worn around the neck or hung on an inanimate (non-living) object
Materials

- A heart template. Make your own or print out ours at the bottom of these instructions.
- Scissors
- Pencil
- Base material: Cardboard or cardstock (a cereal box works well)
- Collage material: Decorative paper in red, purples, pinks, and/or white. You can use construction paper, magazine pages, scrapbooking paper, or other decorative paper. If you have Mod Podge®, you can also use non-bleeding tissue paper.
- Glue stick
- Hole punch
- String or yarn long (at least a yard)
- Optional: Mod Podge® and a brush

Process

For video instructions, find this episode on Reynolda’s YouTube page.

1. Print or design a heart template.
2. Cut out heart template (or templates if you wish to use multiple sizes of hearts in your garland).
3. Trace heart template(s) onto cardboard or cardstock. Trace at least five hearts. If you want to use two different sizes, cut an even number of one size and an odd number of the other size and alternate them in steps 9-13.
4. Cut out cardboard or cardstock hearts.
5. Tear pieces of red, purple, pink and/or white paper into small shapes.
6. Arrange torn papers and glue to cardboard heart with glue stick. It’s OK if the paper sticks out over the cardboard; you’ll clean that up in the next step. Let dry. See option below for using tissue paper and Mod Podge.
7. Use scissors to trim excess paper that extended beyond the cardboard.
8. Punch a hole on each side of each collaged heart like so:

9. Thread your string through the left hole of the left-most heart on your garland, taking it from the front to the back of the heart. You should be working with the longest part of your thread. Leave a tail of several inches on the left side of the heart.
10. Bring the thread around the left side of the heart and thread it back through the same hole, again from the front to the back.
11. Take your working thread and bring it around the back of the heart and up through the right hole of the heart. Wrap the thread around the right side to the back and again bring it through the hole, from the back to the front.
12. Leave a gap of string (between 2-4 inches). Thread your string into the next heart (to the right of the one you just threaded), by placing the thread into the left hole of the heart, from the front to the back.
13. Repeat steps 10-12 for all remaining hearts.

Work holes from left to right.
Alternate method with non-bleeding tissue paper:
1. Follow steps 1-4 above. If you have non-bleeding tissue paper, cut or tear small pieces.
2. Lightly glue tissue papers in place on your cardboard or white cardstock hearts. Layer the tissue papers so that the partially overlap. To glue, you can either use a glue stick or mix a small amount of ModPodge with an even smaller amount of water and brush it over and through the tissue paper.
3. Lightly brush Mod Podge (alone or mixed with a little water) over the tissue paper to secure all edges of the paper to the heart and to each other. Let dry completely.
4. Follow steps 7-13 above.

Continue this activity:
- Instead of making a garland, simply punch two holes in one heart and tie the ends of a short ribbon on string to each hole. Write a message on the bag and place the heart over someone’s door as a Valentine.
- On the back of each heart in your garland, write the names of your Valentines—the people (and maybe pets too!) whom you love.
- What other shapes could you use to make a garland decoration like this?

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4” heart template

3” heart template

2” heart template

1.5” heart template