

MIXED MEDIA ART KIT

In this art kit, we will explore **mixed media**! **Mixed media** describes art that combines different materials. Many **contemporary artists** make art using mixed media. Some use **collage** and **assemblage**. Artists can use mixed media to break away from common materials like paint on canvas.

Robert Rauschenberg and **Mark Bradford** are two artists in the Broad collection who use mixed media.

LET'S BUILD OUR ART KNOWLEDGE! WORDS TO KNOW:



Assemblage

3-D art made by combining everyday objects that the artist found or bought



Collage

Art made on a flat surface by attaching many different materials. Collages can be made of photographs, pieces of paper, fabric, and more



Contemporary Artist

An artist who creates artwork today and in the recent past

ROBERT RAUSCHENBERG was an artist who made **assemblages** in the 1950s. He called these works “combines.” They combined painting and sculpture. He mixed found items like light bulbs that he picked up in alleys, on the streets, or in junk stores with art materials like paint. Using everyday objects, he brought together art and life!

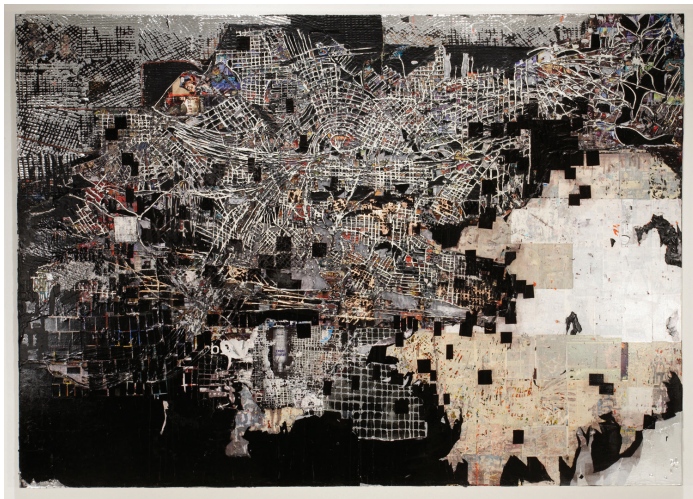
- Why do you think Rauschenberg combined this painting with these objects?
- How does this artwork make you feel? Does it remind you of anything familiar?
- Think of three things that you do every day. It could be something as simple as brushing your teeth, doing your homework, or your favorite hobby.
- What objects do you use during these activities? How would you combine them to tell the story of your day?
- What would a “combine” of you look like?



Robert Rauschenberg, *Untitled*, ca. 1954. Combine: Oil, fabric, newspaper and charcoal collage with light bulb and two Crookes radiometers on wood structure. 25 1/4 x 15 1/2 x 3 3/4 inches (64.1 x 39.4 x 9.5 cm). © Robert Rauschenberg Foundation / VAGA at ARS, NY. RRF Registration #54.024

MARK BRADFORD is an artist who uses everyday materials he finds at hardware stores and in Los Angeles neighborhoods. He **collages** flyers, billboards, comic book pages, and more! Bradford applies many layers onto a canvas. Then he cuts, tears, and sands them down to show the many layers all at once. Sometimes Bradford's art looks like a map of a city. His work reflects real places and events in history. His artwork can tell a story of a community and the people in it.

- How does this artwork compare to other maps you have seen? What is similar, what is different?
- What do you think this artwork represents about the city and the people who live there?
- What kind of materials would you find as you move through your neighborhood?
- What story could you tell about where you live? It can be about the street you live on, your neighborhood, or your favorite place you have visited.



Mark Bradford, *Across 170th Street*, 2008. Mixed media collage on canvas. The Broad Art Foundation. © Mark Bradford

CREATE YOUR OWN MIXED MEDIA ARTWORK!

Artists often ask themselves questions about the world around them. They write or draw ideas in journals or sketchbooks as the first steps to creating their artwork. The journal in your kit can be used to write down the answers to the questions.

You can use the journal to brainstorm ideas!



WILL you create a combine like Rauschenberg?

WHAT kind of materials will you use to make a collage?

Use the materials in your box and materials you have at home to create your own mixed media artwork!



MATERIALS INCLUDED:

- ✓ Journal
- ✓ Pencil
- ✓ Scissors
- ✓ Glue
- ✓ Construction paper
- ✓ Tissue paper
- ✓ Fabric swatches
- ✓ String
- ✓ Cardboard
- ✓ Colored pencils
- ✓ Charcoal stick

HERE'S AN ART TIP! Charcoal can be used to make dark lines without pressing hard. You can also use it to create shading. This material can get messy, so be careful! We suggest you cover the surface of your workspace before you begin.