Today's Newspaper, Tomorrow's Art

Art Made From Your Newspaper...
Today’s Newspaper, Tomorrow’s Art!
Art made exclusively from your newspaper!

Today, as you read your newspaper, take a look at it with your “artistic” eye. What do you see? From the layout of the pages to the photographs in each section, art is everywhere.

Read on and you will find art in the newspaper, as well as art made from the newspaper. Remember, have fun and be creative!

You Might Need:

- Cardboard
- Crayons
- Colored pencils
- Glue
- Found objects (anything)
- Liquid starch
- Markers
- Molds (bowls, masks)
- Paintbrushes
- Paperclips
- Pencils
- Poster board
- Scissors
- Toothpicks
- Wallpaper paste

“Art is the newspaper of the soul.” – Henri Matisse

from Matisse’s “Icarus”
Read All About It!

Even though we are bombarded with broadcast news, we choose to “read all about it” in the daily paper. Take a moment to read and see the newspaper in a new and different way. Begin by looking at the words, then the photography. Enjoy the following activities while enjoying art and your daily paper.

“Art”icle
Be an art critic. Look in the Sunday arts section for samples of writing about local art. Most critics write about art in one or all of the following ways: Describing what they see, breaking down the elements and principles of art the artist used, interpretation of their feelings or the artist’s intentions, or judging the value of the art. Go to a local art show or gallery hop and write an “art”icle about the art you see. Submit it to your local paper or your school newspaper.

A picture is worth a thousand words
Search today’s newspaper for a photograph that you can easily describe. Search the newspaper for these words or letters to create these words. Make a poster to display this “picture painted with words.”

Word frame
Find a piece of art you like. Clip the words from the newspaper that describes the artwork. Create a frame or create a collage in an old frame with these descriptive words.

Your font
Look through the headlines and the advertisements for a variety of text types, different word and letter designs. This is typography, like the fonts on your computer. After looking at the variety of fonts in the newspaper, create your own font. Use your drawing skills to create a unique letter design.

What is a Font?
A font is a specific size and style of letters within a type family. The proper use of type is called typography. More specifically, typography is the craft of composing type and printing from it.

In every craft, its practitioners have a language of its own. Typography is no exception. The following diagram shows a few terms used when describing fonts.

Ascender: The part of a lowercase letter that rises above the x-height, as in letters 'b', 'd', 'f', 'h', 'k', 't' and 'l'.
Baseline: The line on which letters rest.
Cap height: The distance from baseline to cap line, which is the approximate height of the uppercase letters.
Descender: That portion of a letter that falls below the baseline, as in 'j', 'g', 'q', 'p' and 'y'.
Serif: A cross-line at the end of a stroke. Serifs help distinguish individual letters and make the words easier to read.
Sans Serif: Letters without serifs (sans is French for without). The first sans serif typeface is credited to William Caslon in England in 1716.
x-height: The height of the lowercase letter x. A font with a large x-height simply means the lowercase letters are proportionately large in relation to the ascenders and descenders. At very small sizes, a font with a larger x-height is easier to read.

“Why do people think artists are special? It’s just another job.”
- Andy Warhol

from Warhol’s “Do-It-Yourself Seascape”
Today’s Newspaper

Did you know there was so much art in the daily paper, from the creative word fonts to the classified ads? The following activities use the whole newspaper to create and learn about art and art vocabulary.

Cut and Paste: Collage Art

Begin your search! Look through the newspaper for interesting pictures, headlines, comics, words and advertisements. When making a collage, it is best to try to organize your “findings” around some kind of theme, like “Today in Soccer” or “I Love Horses.” When you have found several clippings about your theme or subject, find or create a surface to paste your clippings. Before gluing, pay attention to the way the clippings are glued to the surface and how they overlap. This is called composition. Finish by using large, contrasting letters over the top of the design as a title.

Creative Careers

Search through the classified ads and create a list of jobs or careers that would require or benefit from art knowledge. Using a large sheet of paper, create a chart that includes the name of the career, details you know about the career and an explanation of how the jobseeker could use art knowledge in that career.

What is Papier Mâché?

Papier-mâché is an art material made of paper strips soaked in a binder of starch or flour paste; it dries into a firm, hard substance. Papier-mâché is widely used in the production of decorative objects and sculptures of great lightness, delicacy and strength.

Paper mâché paste is a combination of flour and water. After it cools, strips of newspaper are dipped into the paste and applied to a form. The easiest form to use is a balloon but you can use bowls, plates or even a cardboard box. Add two or three layers to your form, allow to dry and it’s ready to paint or decorate!

Papier-mâché Paste

1 cup water
1/4-cup flour
5 cups lightly boiling water

Mix flour into one cup water until mixture is thin and runny, and then stir into boiling water. BE CAREFUL OF THE HOT WATER! Gently boil and stir for 3 minutes. Cool before using.

Chart the Parts of Art

Think about art class at school. Remember the elements of art? Look through today’s paper, find all seven, then create an interesting poster that makes others want to look at their daily paper in a new way.

Current Events

Search today’s newspaper for pictures, headlines and other interesting clippings. Make up questions about current events these clippings represent. Design a board game or card game about these current events. To create a board game, paint or create a collage on cardboard and sculpt “pawns” from paper clip wire or clay. The card game can be designed from same-sized pieces of poster board. Have fun testing your friends (and your parents) about their current events knowledge.

Recycle and Re-use

Even after shredding the newspaper for previous activities, it’s still not ready for the recycle bin (remember to always recycle old newspapers that do not become art!). Use newspaper strips dipped in liquid starch or wallpaper paste over molds to create papier-mâché sculpture.

“Pollock

“The painting has a life of its own.” – Jackson Pollock

from Pollock’s “The Moon Woman”
Art From Ads

You’re Invited!
Look throughout the newspaper and classified ads for invitations to upcoming public events. Create a board of these ads to use for ideas. Decide on a neighborhood or school event that you would like to advertise. Think ahead. Create a full-page, half-page or small advertisement about the event. Remember to give all information accurately and give your work to the event coordinator early to advertise the event.

Wow-Color!
The glossy advertisements found within the newspaper, especially on Sunday, are a delight to our eyes. Advertisers use colors and groups of colors to attract consumers’ attention. Do advertisers seem to use colors for particular effects, i.e. warm colors for hot foods? Find and clip an example of each color scheme:

Logo Designs
Look once more at the advertisements. This time look for their company logo. It should be easy to spot. A logo is a symbol, which represents the company. Companies want to be noticed at a glance. Create your own logo for a company you dream to own. Remember to be bold, but simple in your design.

Extra! Extra!
Begin to understand the layout of the newspaper by sketching the general layout of the front page of today’s paper. Draw large rectangles to represent printed text areas. Now sketch the page and note the differences. Use a large piece of paper or board to lay out your own newspaper. Fill with your own information, whether hand-designed, computer-generated or created through the collage method.

Monochromatic (mostly one color)
Primary (red, blue, yellow)
Secondary (orange, violet, green)
Neutral (brown, gray, white, black)

Warm (yellow, orange, red)
Cool (violet, blue, green)
Analogous (similar colors used together)

“De Kooning
“The attitude that nature is chaotic and that the artist puts order into it is a very absurd point of view, I think. All that we can hope for is to put some order into ourselves.” – Willem de Kooning

from de Kooning’s “Standing Man”
Read the comics today in a new way. You will create the next sequence of the comic strip. Look at several days of the chosen comic strip and notice how the writer and artist create a sequence. Using the same format, create the drawing as well as the dialogue of the comic. Be creative and funny!

**Recreate the Comics**
Some of the funnies were created for a different generation. Choose a comic from today’s paper and use the same ideas both in the drawings and the words, but recreate it for yourself.

**Be Original**
Instead of continuing or updating a comic that already exists, be original and create your own comic. Think of an overall idea for the comic strip and try to revolve around universal themes.

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**Colorful Beads**
Use the newspaper and an art material to create jewelry. Cut long triangle of comic strip newspaper. Wrap the glue-covered comic strip around a toothpick and slip out before the glue dries. String together to make a unique jewelry.

**Extra-Large Origami**
Use the comic section as decorative paper for origami. Remember to create a square from the rectangular newspaper before following origami instructions.

**ORIGAMI INSTRUCTIONS**
1. Choose good paper and cut it to the right size and form.
2. Fold the paper neatly and carefully especially at the points of corners.
3. Work on a hard flat surface so that all the folds are as even as you can get them.
4. To make it exact and the folds easier, move your thumbnail along the edge of the paper.
5. The more exact your fold, the cleaner the finished product.
6. Follow each step carefully in the right order.
7. When you are folding, it’s helpful to remember the last step you finished and think about the next step.
8. Pay careful attention to all the instructions especially which direction to fold, how it should be folded together and whether it should be unfolded or not.
9. If you are new at origami then you should practice the basic first steps. Most origami figures start with a basic step.
10. Do you like the paper crane on the cover of this section? For instructions, go to the National Wildlife Federation Web site: www.nwf.org/wildlife/whoopingcrane/foldingpapercranes/cfm.

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Origami is a form of visual–sculptural representation that is defined primarily by the folding of the medium (usually paper).

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*Picasso*

“Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist once he grows up.”
– Pablo Picasso

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from Picasso's “Portrait De Femme, August 29th, 1937”
Nice Photos!

Photographs are one of the many reasons we love the newspaper. The front-page photo is large and demands readers’ attention, but even the smallest black and white in the classifieds can capture interest. Use the photographs in today’s edition in the activities below.

Partial Portraits
Search through the newspaper to find a close-up portrait. The photo needs to show the entire face looking directly toward the camera. When a good-sized picture is found, fold the picture in half, then glue the left side of the face to a piece of paper (switch to right side of the face if you are left-handed). Finish drawing the other side of the face. Work slowly and build up the shadows, or value. Have fun and practice! You will improve!

Sports Action
After you read the Sports section, cut out a photograph that appeals to you. Re-write the caption below it. Have fun or make corrections. Then do a quick gesture drawing of the figure. For gesture drawing, the artist tries to get the general form of the body, drawing quickly. Time yourself and do not work for more than one minute on the whole body. Go!

How Does It Feel?
Find parts of photographs that display a variety of interesting textures. Texture is the element of art that shows how something feels, so choose the side of a shiny new car or the edge of a piece of rough fabric. Write clues that could help or confuse your friends and see if they can guess the object. Be nice and try not to make it too “rough” on them!

“Art is not what you see, but what you make others see.” – Georgia O’Keefe

(from O’Keefe’s “Cow’s Skull with Calico Roses”)
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