



Gorgeous Grids

Use a variety of materials to explore formal grid structures in collage then extend into 3D work later.

Materials

A4 backing paper or card.

Coloured paper cut into strips.

Textured paper or card cut into strips.

Yarn, ribbon, tape or braid (optional).

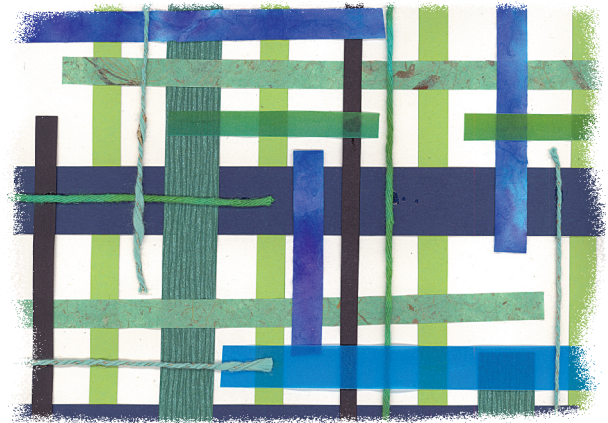
Art straws/drinking straws (optional).

Other interesting materials in straight lengths.

PVA glue & spreader.

Method

- This idea features the work of Michael Brennand-Wood, a contemporary textile artist whose work also includes elements of collage and sculpture and who uses a varied range of materials.
- Display images of Michael Brennand-Wood's work – look at pieces that use grid structures such as 'The Unguarded Moment', 'Slow Turning' and 'Broken English'.
- Discuss the images with the children – see if they can identify the materials used and how the pieces are constructed.
- Spread a thin layer of PVA glue across the backing paper and apply the first material in vertical strips evenly spaced.
- If required, add more PVA then apply the second material at 90° to the first.
- Continue to add layers of materials by subdividing the spaces so that all materials are visible to some extent.
- Adding yarns and thicker materials adds visual and tactile interest.
- Alternating skinny and chunky materials also works well and gives children a chance to experiment.



Taking it Further

Try limiting the colour range for a very harmonious collage. Be adventurous with the materials on offer – include strips of torn fabrics, raffia, textured wallpaper etc. Use thicker card and stronger materials to make 3D pieces without backing paper. Be prepared with plastic pegs to hold it all together while drying!

Visual Discrimination

Allow the children to be bold and brave in their choice of materials. Encourage them to hold materials against their work while they choose the next one – in Textiles this is called 'auditioning' and helps improve visual discrimination skills.