



# An Artist's Vessel

Combine 3D construction with the work of an artist for a fresh approach to using Art images in the classroom.

## Method

- Blow the balloon up but don't over-inflate it then wrap a single sheet of tissue paper round the biggest part of the balloon and secure with masking tape. Don't stick the tape to the balloon as it tends to burst!
- Brown gummed tape is usually about 5cm wide. This is too wide to cover the balloon smoothly so cut the width in half then tear into strips about 15cm long.
- Dip the sponge into water and squeeze to remove as much as possible. Wipe the sponge over the gummed side of the brown tape then lay it over the widest end of the balloon and smooth down with the damp sponge.
- Repeat over the widest area of the balloon creating a rough bowl shape and making sure each piece of tape overlaps the previous one. Keep smoothing with the damp sponge until the first layer is complete.
- Scribble over the first layer with a felt-tipped pen making sure there are marks all over the surface. This will help ensure the 2nd layer is complete as the pen marks need to be covered (see Fig. 1).
- Repeat the process of dampening the gummed tape and laying it over the balloon until the second layer is complete. Allow to dry completely.
- Remove the balloon, cutting to deflate it if necessary. Most of the tissue paper will be stuck to the inside of the bowl but tear off any that is loose. Trim the bowl to give it an even top edge.
- Look at the work of an artist - the example here is Frank Stella - then do some preliminary sketchbook work to plan out the design that will go on the bowl. It is important to consider colour as well as the design so do some colour studies too.
- Once the design is established paint the bowl with a base colour - it helps if this is quite light. Ready mixed paint mixed with a little PVA glue will give a slightly glossy finish if desired. Allow to dry.
- Very lightly sketch the design onto the bowl in pencil so there is a guide to follow when painting.
- Use a range of brush sizes to paint the chosen design onto the bowl. It may help to allow some areas to dry a little before adding the adjacent colour.

## Materials

- Balloons
- Tissue paper
- Masking tape
- Brown gummed tape
- Water
- A sponge
- Scissors
- Felt-tipped pen
- Ready mixed paint or acrylic.



FIG. 1

## Taking it Further

Buy giant balloons and work collaboratively on a much larger scale to produce big pots.

Focus on artists with a very distinctive style as this helps the children identify characteristics that they can use in their own work. This activity combines a number of important skills including analysing the work of artists, working in 3D, translating 2D images onto a 3D surface and handling paint over an uneven surface.