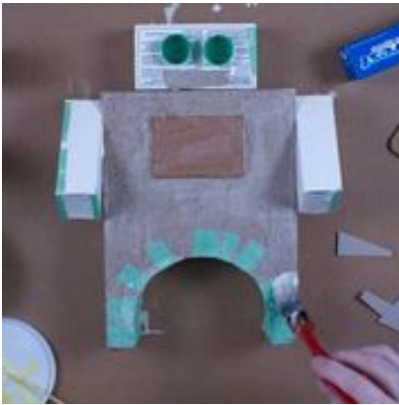


COMMON WEAL COMMUNITY ARTS

Artful Isolation Activities

Week Thirteen: Recycled Robot Sculpture with Ian Campbell



Ian Campbell is a filmmaker and multimedia artist who works in video, installation, and performance art. His short films and live improvised projected video performances have been featured across Canada. He is currently based in Saskatchewan where he teaches film at the University of Regina.

This activity is possible thanks to a partnership with the Heritage Community Association in Regina, Saskatchewan.



Build a robo friend using recycled materials.

What is a Recycled Robot Sculpture? Many artists use recycled materials to create amazing works of art. Ian created this project to encourage people to get in touch with their inner sculptors and let their imagination run wild! Below, he outlines some basic principles for working with recycled materials including sourcing, 3D design, basic construction techniques, and finishing.

Why Recycled Robot Sculptures? Ian likes collecting materials. Many artists are like him, and make art out of whatever they have on hand or things they can find for free. In Ian's own words, "working with recycled materials is a really important skill. Being able to make something out of trash you find around the house allows you to flex your creative muscles (the ones in your head as well as the ones in your fingers)."

Suitable For: Ages 8 + (note that younger elementary aged children will need support).

What You'll Need: Small cardboard boxes of different sizes, scissors, masking tape, glue (wood glue, craft glue, paste etc), water based paint (acrylic or latex house paint), craft paint or permanent markers, things from your recycling bin and other odds and ends from around the house.

Getting Ready:

- Begin with a clear space to work. Cover your workspace so you can get messy!
- What's your robot's personality? Is it a nice bot? An evil bot? Does it like to play video games? Does it like to sit on the sidewalk and pet cats? Start making a story up in your head about your bot!
- Collect all your materials together including recyclable plastics and boxes of a different size and shape. Consider what parts of your bot's body they'll become.



Activity:

- We've briefly outlined the activity here, but if you prefer, you can also download Ian's detailed "Robo-Construction Guide" [here](#).
- Collect a group of boxes. You'll need bigger ones for the body and smaller ones for the arms and head. Seal each box with masking tape and/or extra cardboard.
- Put something heavy inside your robo's legs to keep them from falling over. Some small stones or a piece of wood can be glued or taped inside each leg.
- Assemble your boxes to create your robo, using masking tape or weights to help keep the shape while the glue sets. Give your glue time to dry between stages.
- You may want to glue small objects to your robo. If they are made of plastic, use coarse sandpaper on the objects so they stick to the surface of the boxes.
- Decorate your robo! Paint all the boxes one colour then add detail from there (don't forget to wait for your paint to dry in between layers!). If you don't have any paint skip to the next step.
- Use a pencil to decorate your robot with line art. Think about what geometric patterns will suit your robo's body. Give your robo a face. You may use a ruler to make your line art straight. (Hint: you may want to make your line art go "parallel" to the lines of your robo-body). Deciding what kind of eyes and mouth they have is very important to their personality! What kind of eyebrows will your robo have? Do they go up? Do they slant down?
- Once your line art is done, you can paint it in. Decide what colours you have that will make your robo pop! Think about sticking with three colours that you decide go well together. You may want to check out the Colour Calculator from Sessions College [here](#). Pick a colour then choose "Split Complementary" or "Triadic" to explore complementary colour schemes.

Reflection:

- Give your robo a name and introduce it to your family or friends. Do you think your robo's name suits them? Can your family or friends guess what kind of personality your robo has? Why do you think they thought that? Maybe it's time to make a new robo with a new personality!
- Create a story with your robo. Where does it live? Does it have any friends? What does it like to do for fun?
- Find a spot for your robo to live, such as a shelf in your room or on your desk. Take a picture and share it with us via Facebook or Instagram, tagging [@skcommonweal](#) and using the hashtags [#cwrobo](#) and [#cwneighbours](#).