

## Egg Carton Masks

~ Mt. Sinai Hospital Artist-In-Residence Regina A.E. Scudellari-Ponemon

As an artist and art educator, masks have been a life long fascination of mine. Most likely based in magical childhood Halloween costume DIY memories and further inspired by the wonderful world of masks to be found in NYC museums and at The New York Public Library Picture Collection, they can be created from almost anything that you might have around the house, making it the perfect Recycle/reduce/reuse project.



1. Gather materials from what you have: this is the penultimate “think outside of the box” project as the possible list of materials is endless and as you go deeper into this art form, you will find yourself considering options that at first, did not occur to you. For projects pictured here, I used egg cartons as my substrate, acrylic paint, glitter glue and then branched out from there: paper towel tubes/ wire/seed beads/pipe cleaners/ribbon /magic markers. You could also use the tissue paper technique and impasto painting technique from the decorative egg project tutorial. I use pushpins to create holes for wire and string.



2. A helpful place to begin is by thinking about features: I start with eyes but after that, everything else about a mask is optional. . Paint wise, I think layers and work from light to dark. As with all of the mediums /art forms that I work in: I find it helpful to have several pieces going simultaneously.



3. Once you have laid down your base layer of paint or marker, add glitter glue and allow drying.

4. Glue will be needed (Elmer's) to adhere eyes or other protruding elements.



5. As you work on pieces: think up/down/left/right: materials like wire and pipe cleaners help to expand the pieces in all directions though, at a certain point you will have to decide if you are making a decorative or functional mask: functional masks can have their limitations weight and how you plan on holding the mask in place is functionally important: I favor pipe cleaners and ribbon. For decorative masks, I favor graphic black and white photos since black and white offset the colors of masks beautifully.





6. Finishing touches: add puff paint/glow in the dark paint or glue /seed beads strung on wire/pipe cleaners and ribbon. You can also consider using the same techniques to make matching headpieces, necklaces or bracelets. Consider multi-sensory options: I love to add lightweight bells to this project.

**Finally, as with all of my tutorials, feel free to post your creations online (facebook/Pintererst/Instagram), as I would love to see your explorations/experimentations and results.**

**Most importantly:**

**Enjoy & have FUN!**

**Creatively yours, Regina!**