Create Shape Art

Make art with geometric shapes, inspired by Alaska artist Ron Senungetuk!

Materials:

Paper in variety of colors, scissors, glue, clay (air-dry clay works well), pencil, plastic knife. *Optional:* washable paint.

Instructions:

Together with your child(ren), look at the pictures of Ron Senungetuk's carvings on the next page. Talk about what you see. What shapes do you observe? Do they remind you of anything? Tell a story about the artwork!

Create your own Senungetuk-inspired artwork with the following activities:

Collage:

Cut a variety of geometric shapes in various colors. Cut out as many shapes as you like: large, small, curved, straight, thin, wide, etc. *Hint: For young children, cut shapes in advance. If your children can use scissors, help them cut out shapes.*

Lay the shape cutouts on a dark piece of paper. Move the shapes around to form abstract designs. Let your child(ren) explore different patterns and arrangements. Once you are satisfied with your design, glue the shapes to the paper to finish your artwork.

Clay Carving:

Roll out a ball of clay to make a flat surface. Use a pencil or plastic knife to carve lines in the clay, forming geometric shapes. Try making different shapes and patterns. Let the clay dry, then paint the shapes with different colors!

Discover Alaska Artist Ron Senungetuk

Iñupiaq artist Ronald Senungetuk was a world-renowned sculptor, silversmith, and woodcarver. He had a profound impact on the visual arts in Alaska, as an artist, educator, and mentor. Senungetuk grew up in the village of Wales in northern Alaska, and lived in Fairbanks and Homer for most of his life.

Image: National Park Service.

All world art regardless of age is based on a will to express. You portray art because you are a member of society and you interpret what is around you. While doing this, others may try to limit you, but you have no o] u] - Ron Senungetuk, 2006

Observe how Ron Senungetuk uses shapes and lines in in sP5196 Tf (as)-1.i00(43006(fe.:11.o303(o