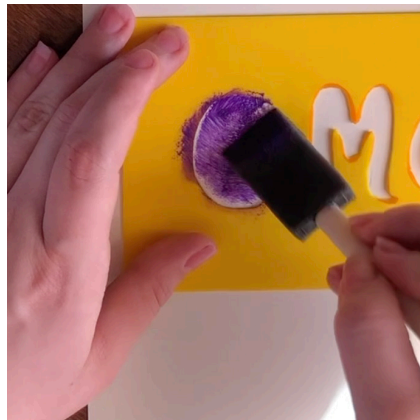
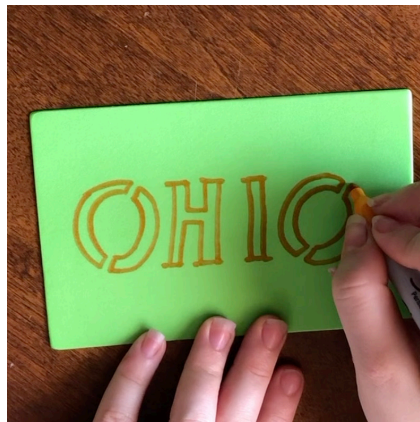
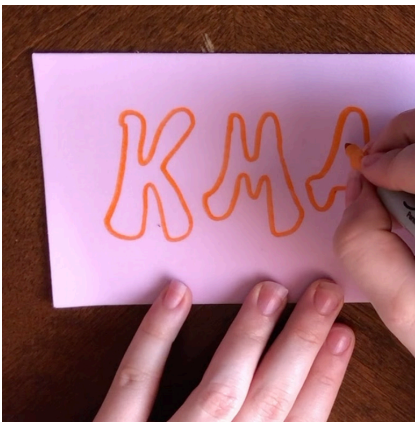


TEXT AS IMAGE: FUN WITH STENCILS



**MARCH 2021
FAMILY ART & SCIENCE ECOUNTER**



OHIO
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KENNEDY
Museum of Art



OHIO
MUSEUM
COMPLEX

TEXT AS IMAGE: Fun with Stencils

Welcome to Family Art & Science Encounters with the Kennedy Museum of Art and the OHIO Museum Complex! This month, we're making our own fonts, stencils, and ink!

This activity is inspired by the Spring 2021 exhibition in Kennedy Museum of Art, *Legacy: Don Adleta and Karen Nulf, 60 Years of Graphic Design*.

Making Stencils!

Materials:

Craft Foam



Scissors



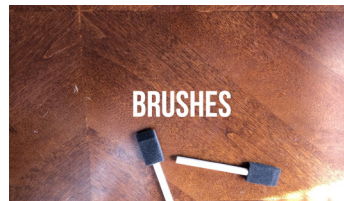
Paint (any)



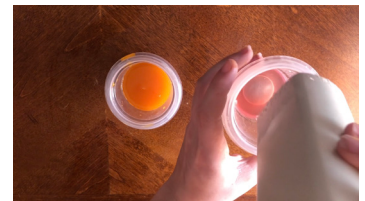
Paper (any)



Brushes



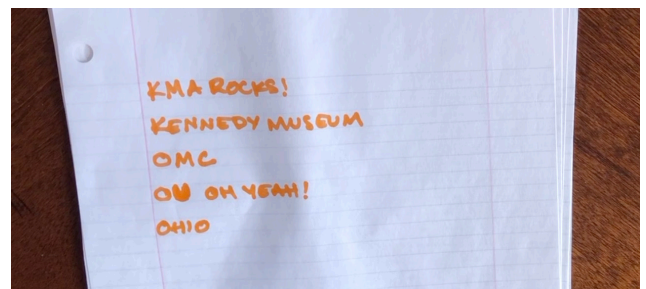
Ink



Feel free to use store bought or make your own scavenged ink! Instructions included at the end of the document.

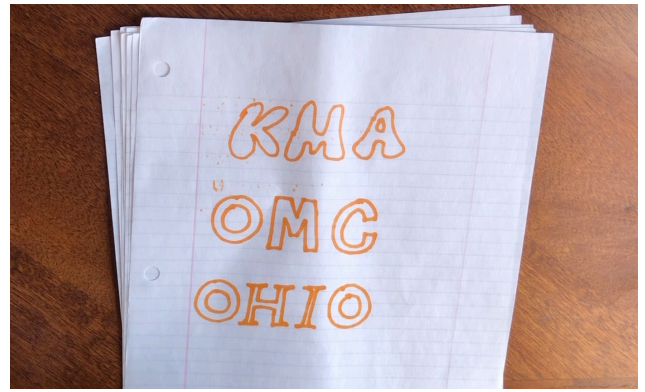
Step One: Think of a Phrase

Think about a word, a phrase, a name, or initials that you want to use for your stencil.



Step Two: Make a Font

Think about how the words or letters you have chosen can be emphasized by the type of font you make your stencil in. A font is a style of writing letters, for example a word in **ARIAL** and a word in **TIMES NEW ROMAN** are in different fonts. Can you see the differences between the letters?



On paper, practice drawing your letters in your own style.

Step Three: Transfer to Foam

Write your phrase on foam in the font you've created.



Step Four: Cut Out

Have an adult help you with scissors to cut out your letters. You can either use positive space (the actual letter) to make a template or negative space (everything except the letter) to make a stencil.



Something to keep in mind: the capital letters A, B, D, O, P, Q, and R have interior cut outs that make them more complicated as stencils. If you are using negative space to stencil, you will need to keep the interior space of the letter attached to the exterior foam.



Step Five: Print!

Lay your stencil or template down on a new piece of paper. Then with a brush, apply paint or ink to the inside of the letters (or around the outside if you're using a template). Don't worry about staying in the lines!



Lift the stencil up and repeat as many times as you like however you like! Will your background be totally blank to showcase your stencils? Or will you stencil so many times that it is impossible to read?



Play around!

Remember:

- Add too much ink or paint and the stencil will leak.
- Use a brush or sponge to get an even application.
- Stenciling over wet ink will smear previous stencils.
- You can leak or smear on purpose to create different effects!



Materials

- Salt
- Bowls
- Lidded Jars
- Hot Water
- Organic Materials



Some items that work well: dandelions, onion skins, spices, coffee grounds) Check out our past encounter on [vegetal dyes](#) to learn more!

Scavenger Ink Recipe

Add base organic material to a bowl.

Add hot water and a little salt.

Mix.

Transfer mixture to a jar with a lid.

Shake!

Let sit overnight, shaking again when you can.

Strain.



Post your finished stencils to our Facebook group: [Kennedy Museum of Art Experiences Group](#), or tag us on Instagram: [@KennedyMuseumArtEDU](#)

To view the virtual exhibition of *Legacy: Don Adleta and Karen Nulf, 60 Year of Graphic Design*, visit <https://www.ohio.edu/museum/virtual/virtual-exhibitions-tours/legacy>

For more information on naturally occurring pigments, check out our Vegetal Dyes Art Encounter at: <https://www.ohio.edu/museum/learn/community/sunday/encounters-2>