

FACE / VASE COLLAGE MOSAIC

INTRODUCTION

Create your own Face / Vase optical illusion inspired by the sculpture in Kenturah Davis' exhibition [Dark Illumination](#) at OXY ARTS.



Left: Example of completed project. Right: Kenturah Davis' turned wood sculpture.

MATERIALS

- Flash light
- Pencil
- 2 pieces 18" x 24" construction paper - make sure they are two different colors!
- Scissors
- Glue Sticks
- Small pieces of colorful construction paper for mosaic (you can also use magazines or any collage materials)

VOCABULARY / CONCEPTS

Positive Space: the main shapes in an artwork.

Negative Space: the empty space between and around the main shapes in an artwork.

Shadow: a dark area or shape produced by an object or body blocking rays of light and a surface.

Mosaic: a picture or pattern produced by arranging together small colored pieces of material, usually stone, tile, or glass.

Profile: an outline of something, especially a person's face, as seen from one side.

STEPS

1

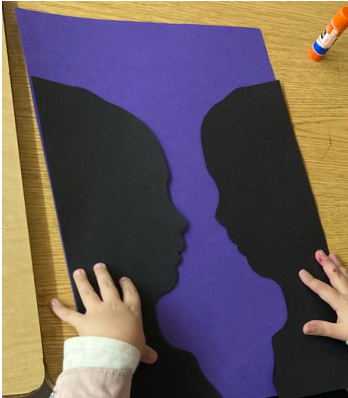
You'll need two friends to help you complete this project!



First, fold one piece of construction paper in half long ways. Sit or stand along a wall with your body perpendicular to the wall. Have one friend tape the piece of construction paper you folded in half to the wall behind you - directly behind your head. Turn off the lights. While one person holds the flashlight up, have the other person trace the **shadow** of your **profile** in pencil. Make sure to sit super still so your shadow doesn't move!

2

Turn the lights back on so you can see the pencil outline clearly. Cut out your **profile** - keep the paper folded so that you have two identical copies of your **profile**.



3

Glue the two copies of your **profile** onto the second sheet of 18" x 24" construction paper - line up the straight edge of your profile cut outs with the edge of the paper, so that it looks like two faces are looking at each other.



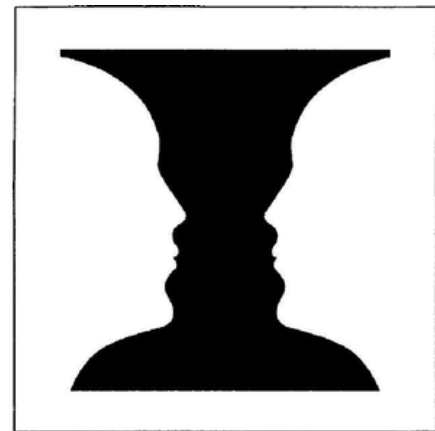
Now when you look at your paper, do you see two faces, or a vase?

4

Using the small pieces of construction paper, create a **mosaic** to fill in the negative space around your profile. Think about which colors will make your face/ vase pop. **Complimentary colors** - colors that are across from each other on the color wheel - will help the optical illusion stand out.



Kenturah Davis' sculpture was inspired by a classic optical illusion called "Rubin's vase". In this illusion, your brain is trying to decide whether the border between black and white belongs to the white area or to the black area, which determines whether you see the vase or faces first. Kenturah's sculpture is made out of a turned wood vessel "vase" that uses her face to create the form. Instead of using black and white, she placed a light behind the vase to create a similar illusion.



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