

Family Art from Home

Surprise String Portraits

by Ophelia Cornet

Here is a quick and fun art project for all ages! Make funny portraits by simply dipping your string in ink, placing it on your paper and surprise...meet your spontaneous friend! Get into a flow and make a whole gaggle of friends!

Supplies Needed

- Sheets of paper (3 all the same size)
- Black Ink
- Small container for ink
- Small brush
- Soft string or yarn (about a foot and a half is ideal)
- Paint, markers or colored pencils (Optional)

How to Do it

Gather or prepare three sheets of paper that are the same size. You will create the face in two steps (face shape and then the rest).

Let's begin with the face shape. Dip the string and wait a few seconds after pulling it up in case some drops of ink need to drip back into the container. When dipping, make sure to leave enough string so that your hands stay ink free. Now place your wet black string on your paper, trying to lay it down in the shape of a large head. It's best to begin the head on the top right or left so that if you still have enough black string. Create the hair as well if you wish. See Image 2.

Once you're done, grab a sheet of clean paper, place on top and press gently where you feel the string is underneath the paper. Note: You can experiment with pressing harder where you want the line to be thicker. Remove the string and discard along with the top paper as you will use a clean one for the next step.

Now you will create the eyes and nose all at once starting with one eye, then making the nose shape, and then the other eye. Use a clean string but add the features to the head you have already created. See Image 3.

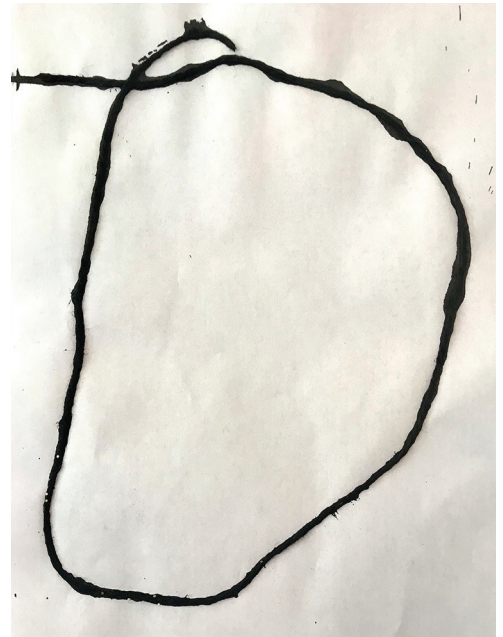


Image 2

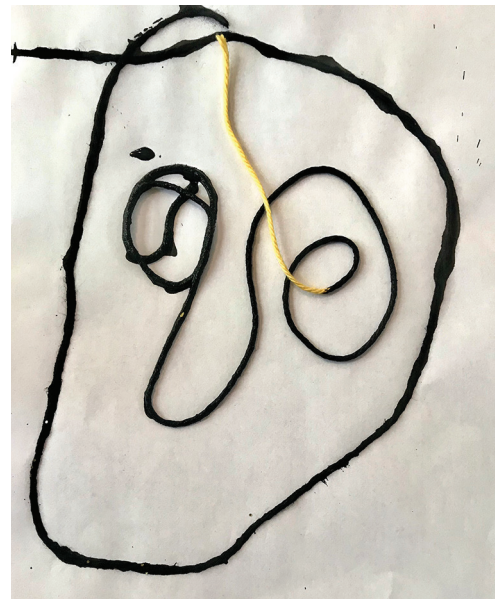


Image 3



Albuquerque Museum
2000 Mountain Road NW
Albuquerque, NM 87104
505-243-7255 • cabq.gov/museum



After placing the string, cover with a clean sheet of paper and gently press on the areas where the string is as you did before. See Image 4.

Enjoy the surprises as you pull off the cover sheet. Add a mouth, ears, and neck using your brush. This way you have both the element of surprise and a little control! See Image 5.

There is of course the possibility of coloring or painting these in if you choose after they dry. Either way, they are full of personality and fun!



Image 4



Image 5

