Family Activity: Finding Art
Provided by the Art Institute of Chicago Department of Museum Education

Introduction
Richard Hunt's *Hero Construction* was made from **found objects**—old pipes, bits of metal, and automobile parts. The artist discovered these materials in junkyards and on the street.

Activity
Make a sculpture of your own with objects from around your house.

Materials Needed:
- Found objects
- Glue gun or strong tape
- Tempera or acrylic paint
- Paintbrush

Steps:
1. Spend a few days searching your home and neighborhood and collecting natural and man-made materials, such as leaves, branches, and broken toys. Be sure to ask for permission to take objects that are not yours! Fill a grocery bag with these materials until you have a good collection.
2. With adult supervision, construct a sculpture from these objects using a glue gun or tape. Think about how you can use your materials to make a human, abstract, or machine-like form. If your **construction** cannot stand on its own, glue it to a cardboard or wood support.
3. If you’d like, paint the final sculpture to give it a **patina** like **cast sculpture**.

Glossary

**abstract** *(adj)*
not recognizable; comprised of expressive color, form, and texture

**cast sculpture** *(n)*
a work of art made by pouring melted liquid, such as bronze, into a mold and then letting it harden. The mold is often constructed from a clay, plaster, or wax model.
**construction** *(n)*
an assembly (usually three-dimensional) of diverse materials, such as found objects

**found objects** *(n, pl)*
materials that were once used for other purposes and later found by an artist and incorporated into a work of art

**patina** *(n)*
a crust or film that appears gradually (as a result of chemical reactions) or is placed deliberately on the surface of a sculpture