

CUT PAPER DRAWING PROJECT – Man | Nature | Machine

You will be producing a cut paper drawing using a medium weight dark grey paper that is 72" high x 26" wide.

The drawing will be designed to hang vertically against a white background.

The image may be either negative or positive ie. you may choose to cut away the positive areas of the image or the negative areas of the image.

Theme:

You will create an image that is built upon a repeating design of stylized vegetation. You may research traditional designs of flora from the late 19th century (eg. the designs of William Morris) or you may invent your own designs from studies of vegetation. You will then add both human elements (eg. hands, feet, etc.) and mechanical elements (eg. wheels, cogs, etc.) to disrupt the design in order to make a narrative **or** a comment on man, nature, and machine.

Process:

- Construct a preliminary black ink drawing, 12" wide x 12" high, on white Bond paper. The image must consist of flat black shapes (no tonal variations ie. similar to a silhouette) that are joined to each other. Your image should be flush on at least one side of the drawing so that when it is mirrored (similar to the Rorschach inkblots), it will extend symmetrically to 24" wide with the flush side of the drawing forming the middle of the doubled image.
- Add a 1" border to the outer side of the drawing.
- Transfer your drawing onto a sheet of tracing paper (you will use the tracing to construct both halves of the doubled image).
- Draw a vertical centerline on your large sheet of grey paper with a pencil.
- Draw horizontal lines across your large sheet of grey paper that are 12" apart.
- Transfer your image to the grey paper using your tracing and carbon paper. You must mirror the image both vertically and horizontally until the full 6 ft. sheet of paper is covered with the drawing. This design will form the basic structure of your drawing.
- Decide which areas will be positive and which areas will be cut away. Indicate this on the paper, either through painting the positive areas in black ink (on the reverse side), or by another method of your choosing.
- Using another sheet of paper, cut out figurative shapes that will be introduced into the patterned background that you have created to describe your subject (ie.

the human and mechanical elements). Attach them to the drawing to help create a narrative. Add or subtract elements from your drawing until the composition is satisfying. The composition will no longer appear completely symmetrical.

- Using an X-acto knife, cut away the negative parts of the image on the large grey sheet of paper. The final cut paper drawing will be a silhouette in dark grey with a dark grey 1" border on the long sides.

DUE DATE:

The cut paper drawing will be due on **Tuesday 8th December**.

Once completed, the drawings will be suspended against a white background. At that point, we will experiment with lighting them so that they cast shadows on the wall.