

## Making an object

For this assignment you are going to make a reproduction of a medieval object out of materials easily found in your house. The purpose of this assignment is to get you to think about the size of something, how it moves, its function, and so on.

1. Choose an object to make from the collection of the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Criteria:

- The object must be made between 300-1450
- The object can come from any culture in Europe, Africa, or in the Islamic world (which was on three continents, Europe, Asia, and Africa)
- The object must be a three-dimensional object, intended to be viewed as such.

Objects not allowed:

- No paintings, drawings or single pages of an illuminated manuscript
- Nothing from East or South Asia or the Americas

How do I find an object: <https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection>

If you don't have an idea to search on, look in the following curatorial departments and browse objects made between 300-1450: Medieval Art and the Cloisters, Islamic Art, or Art of Africa, Oceania and the Americas (but narrow your search to Africa). Alternatively, pick a material you are interested in or a class of objects, such as liturgical objects (which are items used in church services).

2. Use materials you'd find at home: look through your recycling bin, carve into soft household items like a potato or bar of soap, cut up cardboard boxes, tape, glue, rubber bands, etc. Anything goes in terms of materials.

3. This object **MUST** be made to scale: if you are choosing to make a choir screen, then I hope you live somewhere where you can make something 52 x 46 feet! ☺ Look for objects that aren't too big. If you are making something very tiny, remember how hard that might be to pull off.

4. Things to consider about your object:

-does your object use different colors or is it made of metal, ivory, wood or something else not painted or enameled?

-Make sure to look at the **dimensions** of the object!

-You have a three-dimensional object, so don't forget to consider all sides.

-What does the surface look like and how will you try to recreate it?

-does the object have moveable parts? A top, a door, etc.

5. Present this object to the class on Wednesday, February 17 in 1-2 minutes stating:

-what your object is, when and where it was made, what it was used for

-show it off to us! There are two ways to do this:

-turn your camera on, put your object up to the camera and tell us about it OR

-if you don't want to use your camera or don't have one, send me a couple pictures of your object in advance and I will put them in a powerpoint. Don't forget to snap pics of all sides of your object! Pictures need to be sent to me by FEBRUARY 16!

NOTE: this project is not about making a beautiful object – though some of you may very well do that – this is about the act of construction and thinking in three-dimensions. We look at objects on screens and only see them two dimensionally, so the point here is to force you to make that leap. Also, it does not have to look exactly like (or even particularly close to the original): the point is not for me to be able to identify which object you chose, but I should know what type of object it is: a casket, a reliquary, a tunic, etc.