



## Fiber Fusion

Many professional artists create unusual substrates as a base for their artwork. This substrate is a major ingredient for the artwork's success. The paper cloth in this lesson plan can be either a dynamic background or the main object in a work of art. The result is a strong and beautifully textured fabric.

This project starts with only a 12" x 12" piece of muslin upon which a variety of papers, fabrics, colors and textures are added. Paper Cloth can be sewn with a sewing machine, cut with scissors, folded and reused. It is hard to tear! The finished and dry material may be wrinkled, or placed between two sheets of paper and ironed to flatten. Color can be added using different mediums. A gel medium, even watered down, will

transform any pigment into an acrylic without changing the look of the original paint. A watercolor still looks like a watercolor and an oil pastel like an oil pastel. The texture and color give vibrant depth to the paper.

**Grade Levels** K-12

*Note: Instructions and materials based on a class of 25 students. Adjust as needed.*



## Materials

**Unbleached Muslin**, 38" x 1-yd (63104-1338); cut to 12" x 12" pieces for nine per yard; need one piece per student

**Blick® Acrylic Gel Medium**, (00623-1017); share two quarts across class

**Blick® Econo White Bristle Gesso Brush**, 3" (05160-1003); share three across class

**Blick® Art Tissue**, 20" x 30" sheets, white (11303-1513) and assorted colors (11308-1006); share one 480-sheet pkg each across class

### Optional Papers:

**Hygloss™ Animal Skin Tissue** (11300-1003)

**Luster Tissue** (11306-9106)

**Ogura Lace Paper** (12206-1370)

**Aitoh™ Origami Mesh Paper**(11272-1001)

**Lineco® "Super" Cloth** (12829-0003)

### Optional Materials for color and embellishment:

**Crayola® Oil Pastels** (20066-1028)

**Blick® Artists' Watercolor Mixing Set** (01728-1009)

**Hygloss™ Ribbon Rainbow**, (61498-1009)

**Mona Lisa® Simple Leaf™**, Gold (27021-2070) or Silver (27021-2590)

**Potpourri Glass Beads**, assorted colors (61518-)

### Misc. Optional Materials:

**Weldbond® Adhesive**, 8-oz (23819-1105)

Freezer paper

Assorted photos, cheese cloth, newspaper print, fabric

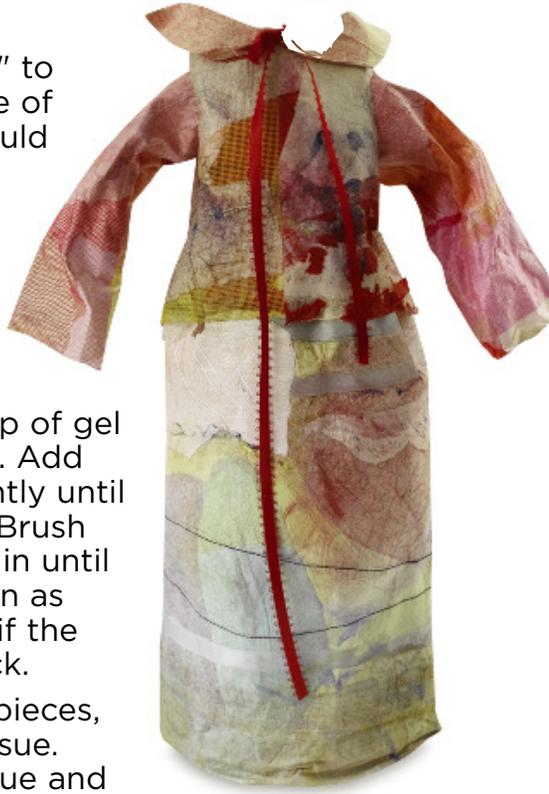
Sewing Machine

Needle and thread

**Blick® Wonder-Cut Linoleum**, assorted sizes (40417-)

## Process

1. Cut freezer paper 18" x 18" to work with a 12" x 12" piece of muslin. Freezer paper should be bigger than the muslin and is reusable. The dry finished piece of fabric paper will peel off the freezer paper.
2. Lay the muslin on top of the shiny side of the freezer paper. Pour 1/3 cup of gel medium into a small bowl. Add 1/3 cup water and stir gently until the solution is lump-free. Brush the mixture onto the muslin until it is wet; mix more solution as needed. Add more water if the solution becomes too thick.
3. Tear the tissue into large pieces, starting with the white tissue. Cover the muslin with tissue and brush the gel solution over the tissue. Allow the tissue to extend over the edges of the muslin. This will create uneven edges that are thin but strong and very flexible. This is a collage technique with a twist. Continue to add the other paper, fabric mesh, ribbon and other flexible texture. Gauze or loosely woven fabrics create a nice, thin layer. Areas of paper and cloth may vary in size and texture. The "Super" fabric and Ogura Lace Paper are great additions.
4. Introduce a small amount of watercolor or oil pastel for depth. Add the gel solution over the watercolor or oil pastel to create a bright, flexible, acrylic-like finish. Always use the gel solution under and over any additions to the surface. Plastic sheeting does not adhere well but can be placed between two pieces of thin white tissue or cloth in any combination. Adhere the edges with gel solution.
5. More cloth can be made as needed to make as a shirt or other piece of clothing. Begin by making a simple pattern. Any area that has gathers, like a sleeve or waist, must have small slits at the edge of fabric so the fabric can curve where the items join.
6. Two pieces of Paper Cloth can be easily attached with Weldbond glue. Use a sewing machine for texture, or hand sew if desired. Do not use a sewing machine



when sewing over the glue.

## Options

1. Add additional depth by stamping a design on the paper cloth.
2. Use Blick® Wonder-Cut to make a linoleum print on the paper cloth as a final project.
3. Use a large sheet as the background.
4. Make book covers, purses or box covers.
5. After all printmaking and two-dimensional textures dry, add organic materials using gel medium.
6. Paint small areas with Weldbond. When tacky to the touch, add Mona Lisa Simple Gold Leaf. Firmly press and smooth, allow to dry, then brush or rub off. Save excess leaf in a jar to reuse.

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## National Standards for Visual Arts Education

Content Standard #1 Understanding and applying media, techniques, and processes

**K-4** Students know the differences between materials, techniques, and processes

**5-8** Students intentionally take advantage of the qualities and characteristics of art media, techniques, and processes to enhance communication of their experiences and ideas

**9-12** Students conceive and create works of visual art that demonstrate an understanding of how the communication of their ideas relates to the media, techniques, and processes they use

Content Standard #3 — Choosing and evaluating a range of subject matter, symbols and ideas

**K-4** Students use visual structures and functions of art to communicate ideas

**5-8** Students select and use the qualities of structures and functions of art to improve communication of their ideas

**9-12** Students evaluate and defend the validity of sources for content and the manner in which subject matter, symbols, and images are used in the students' works and in significant works by others

