

# Tissue Vases

## from Recycled Containers

Turn recycled bottles or cups into “frosted glass” vases! This project allows students to work in three-dimensional designs as they build high-relief mini-murals “in the round.” Younger students may create simplified and abstract work with white tissue paper and watercolors. Older students may achieve very sophisticated and detailed vases. Materials are quite inexpensive!

### Grade Levels K-6

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

### Process

1. Students make preliminary sketches in color and tape the ends of the paper together to create a tube and understand how their work will appear “in the round.” Since this free-form project will vary from the original drawing as it progresses, it may be difficult to envision the final placement on the glass or bottle at this point.
2. Use bottles with flat sides or round containers such as drinking glasses. Low-cost clear plastic glasses or recycled bottles are good choices. Trim the neck off the bottles to create the “vase” opening.
3. Tear tissue into strips or pieces no larger than 2" x 3". Pre-tear one sheet of white tissue to start. More tissue can be torn as needed.
4. Mix 1/3 polymer gloss medium with 2/3 water in the paint cup. Brush this mix onto the vase. Add tissue to start a collage. Then add tissue, followed by more mix over the tissue. Repeat, working on one side of the vase at a time, until the surface is lightly covered.
5. To build up faces, trees, animals and designs, fold and form leftover tissue with the polymer mix, then add the tissue-polymer mix to the side of the vase. Hold forms in place with a piece of tissue dipped in the mix — bandage style. Continue to add designs and tissue.
6. A colored application mix can be made by using watercolors instead of water. This colored mix can be applied in-between layers or over the final collage shapes. The watercolor will look light and airy on the tissue and mix. If areas of paint become too dark, add a layer of tissue and clear mix to “erase.”



### Materials

**Blickrylic® Polymer Gloss Medium** (00711-10280); share one half-gallon across class

**Richeson® Paint Cups** (03317-0100); share one 100-piece package across class

**Royal Langnickel® Golden Taklon** classpack or 30 rounds and flats, (06060-1030); share sets across class

**Prang® Watercolor Sets**, 8-color oval set, (00305-1019;); share 12 sets across class

**Blick® Art Tissue**, white, 12" x 18", (11308-1497); share four 50-sheet pkgs across class

Large, clear plastic glasses or bottles, recycled or inexpensive; one per student

*Note: Clear plastic will give painted tissue a frosted look*

7. The mix of acrylic polymer and watercolor turns the paint into an acrylic! No additional protective finish is required.

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## National Standards for Visual Arts Education

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

**K-4** Students use different media, techniques, and processes to communicate ideas, experiences, and stories

**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

Content Standard #2 — Using knowledge of structures and functions

**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

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

**K-4** Students select and use subject matter, symbols, and ideas to communicate meaning

**5-8** Students integrate visual, spatial, and temporal concepts with content to communicate intended meaning in their artworks