



Make a Fake Cake!

Deliciously decorated sculptural cupcakes —
a tribute to the paintings of Wayne Thiebaud

Before the Pop Art movement brought us Andy Warhol's soup cans and Claes Oldenburg's giant soft hamburgers and ice cream bars, California artist Wayne Thiebaud became known for his lush paintings of baked goods, hot dogs, and candy. Painting mostly from his memory of products on display in bakeries and cafeterias, Thiebaud described the way the food was arranged in rows and on pedestals in cases, using thoughtful color and thick applications of paint to attract the viewer just as the baker intended to attract customers.

Unlike Pop Artists, who celebrated or satirized consumerism in their art, Thiebaud's images of commonplace items seem to treat them as an everyday visual delight.

Students can prepare their own visual delights in this lesson plan that introduces a voluminous finger paint that spreads on like frosting yet dries to a strong, durable finish. These cupcakes are lasting treats that can be decorated, displayed, and enjoyed much longer than the real thing!

GRADES K-8 Note: Instructions and materials are based upon a class size of 24 students. Adjust as needed.

Preparation

1. Cut corrugated paper border into 12" long pieces.
2. Punch circles from lightweight posterboard to use as a cupcake base.

Process

1. Make a cake cup out of scalloped corrugated border by making a small fold every 2" on the flat side and securing it with a staple. Close the cup with a staple at the top and bottom.
2. Crumple newspaper into a 3" ball, then cover it with a paper towel. Apply glue to the inside of the cake cup and insert the newspaper to fill the "cake" area.
3. Apply glue to a posterboard circle and place it beneath the cake cup. Allow the glue to dry.
4. Using a disposable knife, spread Tactilcolor paint over the top of the cupcake so that the paper towel is completely covered.

Materials (required)

Bordette® Scalloped Borders, 2-1/4" x 50 ft roll, assorted colors (11211-); share one roll across class

McGill® Circle Punch, 2-1/8" Dia (61825-1008); need one

Blick® Economy White Posterboard, 5 ply, 22" x 28" (13109-1102); share one across class

Pebeo® Tactilcolor 3D Bubble Finger Paint, 500 ml, assorted colors (67109-); share two across class

Blick® White Glue, 4 oz bottle (23882-1004); share four across class

Decorating Materials, including:

Spectra® Sparkling Glitter, 4-oz, assorted colors (61416-)

Creativity Street® Confetti Writers, 6-color set (61759-1006)

Sequin Mix, 9 oz (60718-1002)

Creativity Street® Rocaille Seed Beads, 8 oz multi color (60770-1010)

Lily® Sugar 'n Cream Yarn, 2-1/2 oz, assorted colors (65236-)

Ribbon Assortment, 40 yards (62100-1040)

Crumpled newspaper for filling

Stapler



Process, continued

5. While the paint is still wet, decorate the cupcake with glitter, sequins, small beads, and brightly colored yarn. Or, allow the paint to dry and glue decorations to the surface.
6. Tie a ribbon around the base to hide the staples.



Step 1: Make a small fold every 2" on the flat side of a piece of scalloped corrugated border and staple it.



Step 2: Make a 3" ball of crumpled newspaper, then cover it with a paper towel. Glue it inside the cup and attach a posterboard disk to the bottom.



Step 3: "Frost" the cupcake with Tacticolor paint and decorate it with glitter, sequins, yarn, and beads.



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 #5 — Reflecting upon and assessing the characteristics and merits of their work and the work of others.

K-4 • Students understand there are different responses to specific artworks.

5-8 • Students compare multiple purposes for creating works of art.