

Exploring Enamel and Creating a Wearable Work of Art

Time: 1 hour plus dry time
Difficulty level: Moderate
Messy level: Medium



Inspired by the exhibition *Fire/Works: Enamel Art through the Centuries*, on view through May 31, 2021, this activity will guide you in exploring the patterns and movement created with colorful enamel, stones, and metal in an artwork by American artist Earl Pardon.

Above: Earl Pardon, *Pin*, 1960, sterling silver, 14k gold, enamel, and stones, the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, The Leatrice S. and Melvin B. Eagle Collection, museum purchase funded by the Caroline Wiess Law Accessions Endowment Fund, 2010.2105. © Pardon Design, Inc.

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To view a hi-res image of the work, visit the [MFAH Collection online database](#).

Investigate the Work of Art!

1. Earl Pardon (1926–1991) was an inventive jewelry artist who would often arrange flat pieces of enameled metal to create wearable art that showcased his talent for creating patterns and textures. How would you describe the colors the artist used to create this object?
2. Look closely at this pin. How would you describe the texture and patterns in the stones and enamel pieces?
3. This work of art is designed to be worn solely as an ornament without a function or purpose. What objects do you wear that are ornamental? What objects do you wear that serve a function?

Let's Make Some Art!

Gather These Art Materials

- Glass mosaic tiles
- A piece of gray linoleum or cardboard
- Hot-glue gun
- Scissors
- Modge Podge or liquid glue
- Paintbrush
- Brooch pin
- Paper
- Pencil



To purchase some of the recommended art materials, visit [dickblick.com](#).

Step-by-Step Artist Instructions

1. Find a clear spot at home with a hard surface on which to work.
2. Gather supplies.
3. Cut a 2 x 4 inch rectangle out of your linoleum square or cardboard.
4. Ask a grownup to help and use a hot-glue gun to attach your brooch pin to the back of the square. This will be the base of your pin.
5. While the brooch pin and rectangle are drying, sketch out a pattern for your tile pieces.
You can practice by arranging the tiles in a shape you like on the paper.
6. Use the hot-glue gun to attach your tiles to the pin in the pattern that you designed.
7. Let it dry, then enjoy your new pin!