

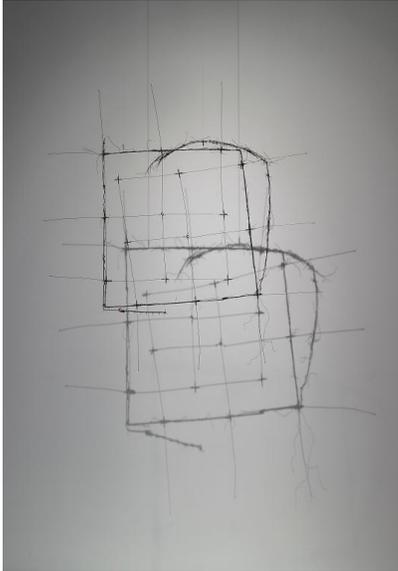
Exploring Line and Creating a Unique Print

The artist Gego (Gertrud Goldschmidt) centered her groundbreaking practice on the line either drawn on paper or sculpted in three dimensions. This activity will help you explore line by examining the shape and lines of household items that can be pressed into clay to create a print.

Time: 30 minutes

Difficulty level: Moderate

Messy level: High



Above: Gego (Gertrud Goldschmidt), *Dibujo sin papel 85/12 (Drawing without Paper 85/12)*, 1985, steel wire, thread, and leader sleeves, the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, gift of the Fundación Gego, 2005.355. © Fundación Gego

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To view an image of this work, visit the [MFAH Collection online database](#).

Investigate the Work of Art!

1. Gego uses many materials to create her works, which explore line in both two and three dimensions. Look at *Drawing without Paper 85/12*. What are the first three words that come to mind to describe these lines?
2. Another fascinating element of Gego's work is her ability to define space through lines that have been freed from a two-dimensional space like paper. How does she use space to create visual lines in *Drawing without Paper 85/12*?
3. Why do you think Gego used wire and thread to create lines in this artwork?

Let's Make Some Art!

Gather These Art Materials

- Lightweight paper
- Air-dry clay
- Rolling pin
- Cardboard wrapped in parchment paper and taped on the back or a plastic placemat
- 2 colors of dark acrylic paint
- 1 medium-sized paint brush
- Water cup
- Paper towels
- Paper plate or painter's palette
- Objects that are linear and can be pressed into clay such as pipe cleaners, the tops of hangers, bread ties, or uncooked spaghetti noodles

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

Artist Instructions

1. Find a clear spot at home with a hard surface to work on.
2. Working on your wrapped cardboard or placemat, use the rolling pin to create a slab of clay that is about 1/4-inch thick.
3. Press your "line" objects into the surface of the clay.
4. Using the rolling pin, firmly roll over the surface of the clay, pressing the objects deeper.
5. Carefully remove the objects and discover the lines made.
6. With a slightly damp brush, pick one color of acrylic paint and apply a thin layer to the surface of your clay. Do this lightly so the line and crevices the objects created do not become filled with paint.
7. Working quickly so that the paint doesn't dry, take a sheet of paper and place it over the painted slab of clay.
8. Gently rub the paper down on the clay, making sure that the paint has transferred onto the paper.
9. Starting at one corner, slowly peel the paper away from the clay.
10. *Voilà!* You have your first print. Now you can continue to alter your prints by continually pressing objects into the surface or trying out different paint combinations.