Chance Murray is a contemporary Southern artist who creates sculptural paintings from assembled materials to produce striking and slightly skewed scenes of rural life. Rubber Donkey Party is an exhibition and collection of these unsettling and yet oddly familiar scenes of the bizarre world around us.

**Age/Grade** K–12

**Materials**

For Assemblage Diorama:
- Paper + Pencil
- Coloring materials: Markers, crayons, colored pencils
- Small container (shoe box, box lid)
- Hot glue or school glue
- Scissors
- Collage materials: Fabric, paper, ribbons, gems, rocks, cardboard, etc

For Taxidermy Soft Sculpture:
- Paper
- Pencil/markers
- Scissors
- Fabric or felt sheets
- Needle + thread
- Hot glue or fabric glue
- Optional embellishments: Buttons, googly eyes, pipe cleaners
- Resources: Artspace Raccoon Template, Mask Template (at end of this activity packet)

Share your creations with us! Tag us: @artspacenc #ArtspaceAtHome
ASSEMBLAGE DIORAMA (K–8)

Murray creates snapshots of scenes from his environment and life. Capture your own surroundings by assembling found materials into a diorama.

Artmaking Directions

1. Sketch your ideas.

2. Paint and/or collage a background setting to the farthest wall of your container. Is it outdoors? In the kitchen? Outer space?

3. Add objects and textures to build up the scene - wait to glue or tape until you are happy with the arrangement.

4. Add figurines (people, animals, machines, furniture, etc) – you may consider not gluing these down so you can move and rearrange them.

5. Come up with a creative title for your work!
TAXIDERMIED SOFT SCULPTURE (6–12)

Murray sometimes incorporates taxidermied animals into his work – taxidermy is the art of preparing and stuffing animal skins in a lifelike way.

**Artmaking Directions**

1. Draw an outline of your animal in profile with simple details.

2. Create a pattern by cutting out your drawing or cut out the Raccoon Template pieces provided.

3. Lay the pattern pieces face down onto the backside of the fabric or felt.

4. Trace your pattern pieces onto the fabric or felt.

5. For the body - flip the template over and trace it again onto fabric. You can trace onto the same fabric or use two different fabrics.

6. Cut out all fabric pieces.

7. Glue details onto the front side of fabric before stitching.

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8. Now, face the patterned sides of the animal’s body together. Your animal should be inside out.

9. Hand sew a simple running stitch around the edges of the fabric. Option: Hot glue the edges if you don’t have needle + thread.

10. Leave a two inch hole for stuffing and tie a knot in your thread.

11. Flip the fabric right side out, so your pattern is showing on the outside and your stitches are hidden.

12. Stuff your animal. Idea: Ball up tissue paper or remove stuffing from unused pillows.

13. Sew up the hole with a hidden stitch.

14. Add details with buttons, googly eyes or other embellishments.
Activity Ideas

Walking Scavenger Hunt: Artist Chance Murray uses inspiration from his immediate surroundings and collects found objects to incorporate into his artwork. Go on a walking scavenger hunt outside around your home. Find and collect the following objects, textures, and materials to inspire your diorama. Remember to sanitize anything you pick up!

- Something soft or fuzzy
- 3 different types of leaves
- An interesting stick
- A man-made material
- Something shiny
- Something that lights up
- An animal or bug (Like spot a squirrel or a bird or a butterfly)
- Bold text or letters
- A rubbing of tree bark
- A small flower bouquet

To create a rubbing - place paper over the raised texture and rub with the side of a crayon to reveal unique markings.

Animal Costumes: Can you spot the masked creature in Three Studies of a Raccoon below? Create costumes for your already stuffed animals. Make a mask from the template provided or design other costumes for your furry friends.

Storytelling: Write a short story about your diorama or animal. What is happening in the scene? Who are the characters, where are they? What is your animal’s name? Where did it come from? Does it have super powers?

Chance Murray, Local Mom and Pop, or, They Done Sent Old Silver To the Glue Pit, or, Three Studies of a Raccoon

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Resources

Read more about Chance Murray’s show Rubber Donkey Party at Artspace [here](#).

Don’t have fabric? View these tutorials on creating a cat from a pair of fuzzy socks or a chipmunk from a glove!