

NCMA To Go Kit

Mardi Gras Masks

Create a festive mask celebrating Mardi Gras traditions inspired by the art of Romare Bearden!



Romare Bearden, *New Orleans: Ragging Home*, 1974, collage of plain, printed, and painted papers, with acrylic, lacquer, graphite, and marker, mounted on Masonite panel, 36 1/8 x 48 in., Purchased with funds from the State of North Carolina and various donors, by exchange

Artist Romare Bearden evoked the joyful sounds of a brass band parading through a New Orleans city street in *New Orleans: Ragging Home* (1974). This work of art is part of a series of collaged paintings that celebrate African American musical traditions like blues and jazz. Can you find the tuba, trombone, and saxophones in the band? Bearden's art combines collaged pieces of paper with paint.

About Mardi Gras and Mardi Gras Indians

The musicians in *New Orleans: Ragging Home* certainly would have seen the bright and beautiful costumes of Mardi Gras Indians performing to celebrate Carnival, the festive period before the Christian season of Lent. Mardi Gras Indians parade through the streets showing off elaborate hand-crafted costumes. Beads, feathers, sequins, and hand-sewn patches decorate the crowns and suits they wear, combining both African and Native American traditions. Each suit tells a story and can take up to a year to create.

MATERIALS

included in kit

- Mask form
- Decorative papers
- Sequins
- Rhinestones
- Feathers
- Glue Stick

not included in kit

- String
- Pencil or pen
- Markers

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Plan your design.

Using a pencil or pen, sketch a plan for the story you will tell on the mask form. Will you include images of people or pets? Shapes? A place you love?

2. Fill in your drawing.

Use markers to complete the sketch you drew on your mask. Or tear the decorative paper into smaller pieces and glue them to create a collaged image.

3. Add decorative details.

Glue on rhinestones, sequins, or feathers to give your mask some pizzazz!

4. Tie a string.

Cut a 24-inch piece of string or ribbon. Tie an end using the hole on one side of the mask. Measure the string around your head, then tie it off on the other side.

5. Parade around wearing your mask!



New Orleans: Mardi Gras Indians at the Uptown "Super Sunday" celebration, LaSalle Street near Washington Avenue, photo by Infrogmation / CC BY-SA 3.0