

Erin Latham | Session 5:

Lonnie Holley: Exploratory Assemblage Sculptures

List of Required Supplies: Assembled/repurposed materials: Cardboard, cardboard tubes, egg cartons, bottle caps, plastic pieces, Styrofoam, acrylic/tempera paints, yarns of different colors, hot glue, hot glue gun, Elmer's glue, paint brushes, cup for water, paper towels/rags or sponge, paper plate/palette for paints, wires, yarns, tablecloth, newspaper for keeping table clean.

Space/Facility Requirements: Floor space, table

Student Time Required: 60 minutes



Information on the Artist:

Lonnie Holley was born on February 10, 1950, in Birmingham, Alabama. From the age of five, Holley worked various jobs: picking up trash at a drive-in movie theater, washing dishes, and cooking. He lived in a whiskey house, on the state fairgrounds, and in several foster homes. His early life was chaotic, and Holley was never afforded the pleasure of a real childhood. Since 1979, Holley has devoted his life to the practice of improvisational creativity. His art and music, born out of struggle, hardship, but perhaps more importantly, out of furious curiosity and biological necessity, has manifested itself in drawing, painting, sculpture, photography, performance,

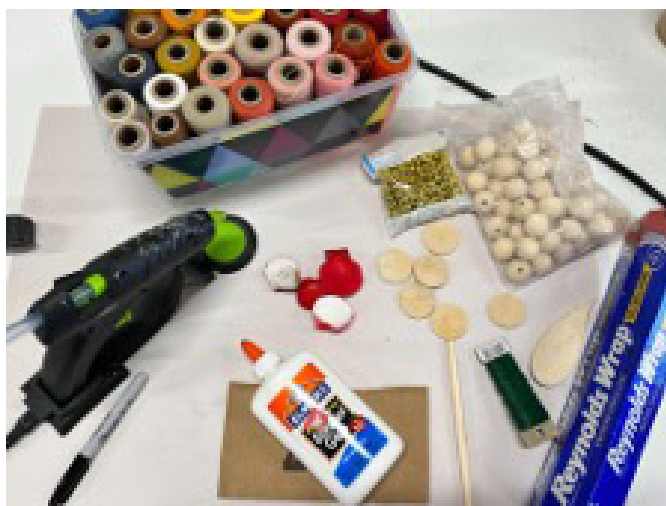
and sound. Holley's sculptures are constructed from found materials in the oldest tradition of African American sculpture. Objects, already imbued with cultural and artistic metaphor, are combined into narrative sculptures that commemorate places, people, and events. His work is now in collections of major museums throughout the country, on permanent display in the United Nations, and been displayed in the White House Rose Garden. In January of 2014, Holley completed a one-month artist-in-residence with the Robert Rauschenberg Foundation in Captiva Island, Florida, site of the acclaimed artist's studio

Sources: <https://www.lonnieholley.com/>, <https://bombmagazine.org/articles/drawn-out-of-the-muck-of-america-lonnie-holley-interviewed/>

Step-by-step Instructions:

This project is an exploratory experiment for students to take the materials amassed and then freely create to make their own unique art piece.

1. Begin by learning about the artist's work.
2. Make a base of any size using cardboard or wood.
3. Use materials to build an assemblage sculpture. It should have height, width, and depth.
4. Students should learn how to manipulate or use the materials. For example, they should learn how to bend wire, how to wrap things with string, how to stack objects, and glue things with hot glue/ regular glue, etc.



5. Assemble sculptures. Younger students may need assistance with the hot glue gun.

