



John Willis is a New England photographer who lives near a paper mill and recycle center. He watches scraps of paper get blown in the wind and bales of paper transported to a part of the building that turns discarded paper into tissue paper. He considers his photo a found object still live, and feels it provides a look at contemporary life as well as a look at the past.

Willis is one of many artists who uses recycled materials to create art. He turns found objects into compositions that he photographs. Other artists turn found objects into sculptures or collages. Now it's your turn!

John Willis, *Recycled Realities #16*, 1998, bleached and toned gelatin silver print, 7 in. x 7 in., Gift of Richard S. and Jeanne Press.

Activity: Recycled Object Art Storage: turn items from your recycling bin into fun and colorful storage for your art supplies!

Materials:

- Items from the recycling bin to repurpose such as jars, shipping boxes, cans, and cartons
- Any art supplies you have at home to add color and design, such as (but not limited to):
 - Paint, paint brushes, markers
 - Ribbon or yarn
 - Construction paper, magazines, wrapping paper or paper shopping bags
 - Colorful tape or glue
 - Scissors

Directions:

- If using paper, cut the paper to the size you want to cover on your object and use glue or tape to attach. Adding colorful tape such as patterned duct tape or blue painters tape can be a fun touch.
- If using paint, play with different patterns and designs on your object, such as stripes or polka dots.
- Add finishing touches with markers or by adding a bow made of ribbon or string.
- Fill your new art storage with art supplies, such as colored pencils, markers, or scissors.

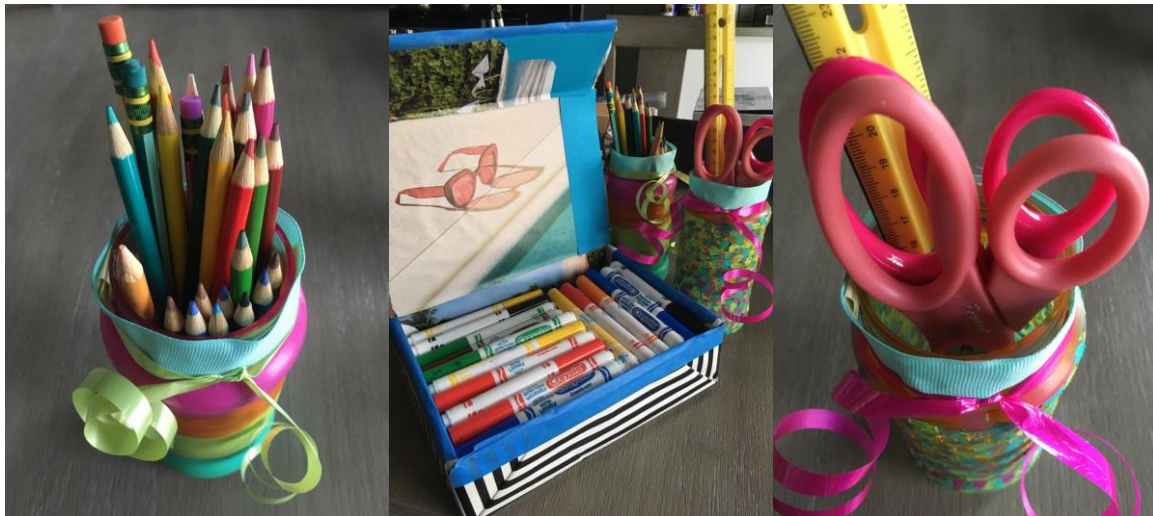
Tips:

- Decorated jars can also be used as vases, and any of these items would make a great gift!

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- This is a good lesson plan to use when talking about recycling and what we can do to help take care of the earth.



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