Pearl at Home

Art projects designed for family fun, for suggested ages of 5 and up to be completed at home with easily-accessible art materials.

MIXED MEDIA DOLLS

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6815 Cypresswood Dr, Spring, TX 77379 | 281.376.6322 | pearlmfa.org
MATERIALS

- **Printed paper:** scrapbooking paper or wrapping paper
- **Fabric:** thin fabric works best
- **Substrate:** cardboard, mat board or canvas board in the size of your painting
- **Pencil and ruler**
- **Assorted fabric trims, buttons, puff balls, scrapbook trims, etc.**
- **Printer and paper** (preferably cardstock) • **Templates** provided in this packet

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Traditionally, many quilts are designed with blocks that rely on geometric shapes. There are some quilt patterns, however, that use different shapes. Most of these patterns are for appliquéd quilts. **Appliqué** is a needlework technique in which one piece of fabric is sewn on top of a larger one.

Some patterns depict flowers and leaves, while some depict people, like the classic Sunbonnet Sue. Quilt blocks of a pattern called **Miss Sunbonnet** began showing up as early as the 1800s. Its popularity grew after the publication of the **Sunbonnet Babies’ Primer** books in the early 20th century.

Our mixed media project combines fabric and paper, and is inspired by both quilts and linked paper dolls.

![Bertha Corbett Melcher, Illustration from The Sunset Babies in Holland (1915), by Eulalie Osgood Grover, Rand McNally & Company](image1)

Examples by Karen Martin and Linzee McCray
1 Choose papers and fabrics to create your background. You can use one large piece, or several pieces layered together. Glue them to your substrate.

2 Select a wide strip of contrasting paper or fabric; it’s okay if your piece is wider than the background. Decide where you want to place it, then glue:

**FOR FABRIC:** Place one glue line where the TOP of your strip will go, then press down the fabric. Next, lift the bottom edge of your strip up and add a glue line where the BOTTOM of your strip will go. Make sure your strip is laying flat and press it down onto the glue. **Wrap the sides** of the fabric around to the back and glue them in place. Let everything dry.

**FOR PAPER:** You may need more than one piece of paper to go all the way across the background. If using multiple pieces, make sure they are the same height.

Add glue to the back of the strip papers (not the background). Press the pieces to the background and let them dry. **Trim** the sides to remove any piece that extends beyond your background.

**TIPS:** If using fabric, you can make your edges neater by folding the fabric about 1/4 inch under on each side. To keep your folds flat, iron over the fold. *(Note: Ironing should be done by an adult.)*
While the background dries, make your dolls. Print the doll pattern at the end of this packet, and cut it out to use as a template.

Fold a letter-sized piece of paper, or piece of thin fabric, into even thirds – like a “Z” or an accordion fan. Your doll template should fit over it to where the hands are on the folds (see illustration).

Place your template on top and cut around the template. Keep the paper/fabric folded as you cut. The hands are the only place these dolls will be connected.

MAKE SURE the hands are on the FOLDS of the paper or fabric
4 Use tiny amounts of glue to add the dolls onto the background across the paper or fabric strip.

5 Print the clothes templates (provided in this packet) and cut them out to use as a template on fabric or patterned paper. Cut out the shapes and glue them in place on your dolls. Add leftover items like fabric trims, buttons, or scrapbook items to decorate the clothes, add eyes, or embellish the background.
Print at full (or actual) size on cardstock to use as templates

Place this line on the fold or edge

Place this line on the fold or edge

Clothes Patterns