

ELMHURST ART MUSEUM

ART, EDUCATION & ARCHITECTURE

DIY PUPPETRY



The exhibition *Could Be Architecture: McCormick AfterParti*, created by the collaborative duo of Joseph Altshuler (Chicago) and Zack Morrison (Elmhurst), is composed of “seriously playful spaces, things and happenings that celebrate what your world could be”. Their clever wordplay sets the tone for the show; “parti” refers to the basic diagrammatic concept layout for an architectural design.

Visitors to the exhibition are invited to explore the home in its original 1952 floor plan by lounging on pull-out seating in the living room, challenging companions to a chess game in the parlor, tasting a treat from the shapely kitchen countertop, or putting on a puppet show in the children’s playroom.

This activity invites participants to construct their own personalized character using materials already in the home. The puppets that are created can interact and play in a way that is performative and entertaining. Stories can be based in reality or fantasy, and open up to a whole creative world to explore.

Check out our website for more information and images of *Could Be Architecture: McCormick AfterParti*. Share your creations and tag us on social media! #MuseumAtHome

Sincerely,

Joe Hladik, Director of Education & Grants Administrator



ELMHURST ART MUSEUM

ART, EDUCATION & ARCHITECTURE

In the activity you will:

- Experiment with fibers
- Study the work of Could be Architecture
- Learn sewing skills
- Learn about storytelling
- Reflect on family and home



You will need:

- Felt
- Hot Glue or fabric glue
- Scissors (fabric scissors work best)
- Thread/String/yarn
- Plastic needle
- Pom Poms and/or felt scraps to customize
- Polyfill (or cotton balls) (optional)



ELMHURST ART MUSEUM

ART, EDUCATION & ARCHITECTURE

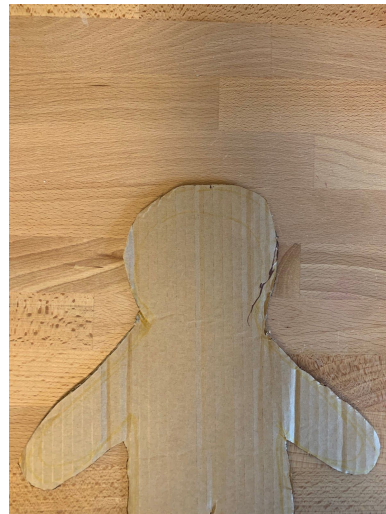
INSTRUCTIONS

Double up two pieces of felt large enough for your hand

- You can either fold over a large piece of felt or use two separate pieces on top of each other

Trace the outline of your hand on a piece of felt.

- Make sure you extend your thumb and pinkie to create the arms.
 - a. Feel free to abstract the figure or exaggerated features
 - b. If you're making multiple puppets with similar shapes, you can also use a stencil made from cardboard



ELMHURST ART MUSEUM

ART, EDUCATION & ARCHITECTURE

Using scissors (with parent supervision), cut out the felt along the traced body line.

- Fabric scissors work best!
- Make sure to cut through both pieces of felt
 - These pieces should be identical



Glue or sew the two layers of felt together around the edge keeping the bottom open for your hand.

- c. If you choose to sew, it may be helpful to first poke holes through both layers of felt



ELMHURST ART MUSEUM

ART, EDUCATION & ARCHITECTURE

Customize your character with strings, felt or other materials.

- If your design has a large empty space on the inside, you may want to fill parts of your puppet with polyfill or cotton so the puppet retains its shape.



Perform! Put on a show! What stories can you tell with your new character?



Please make sure to save all unused materials and tools, you may need to use them for other projects!

