

# Constructivist Portrait

Art 5

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The Constructivist Movement in Modern Art changed how 3D form was put together. For the first time it really was “put together” from discrete parts. Assembling form in this way allowed artists to **try shapes out and adjust pieces** before deciding on the whole.

First, we will construct 3 free standing, portraits using **card-board**. Height should be about 18 to 24 inches. The portrait can have a front side to it, but should have interest on all sides. Work in a rapid, collage-like manner freely changing your mind as you go. Neatness is not the goal. You may work from memory or from a photograph.

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Finally we will construct a single, free standing portrait using **Balsa** wood and pins. We will use straight pins to join the wood again, **encouraging us to change our minds and change the form** as we work.

Cut the Balsa using matt and Xacto knives or saws provided and and use a cup or dish to keep the pins from going everywhere.

Look at the work of **Naum Gabo** (above) and the work of other constructivist sculptors.

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## Resources:

<http://www.grahampotter.com/constructivism.html>

[http://www.cs.mcgill.ca/~kaleigh/film/film\\_essay\\_constructivism.html](http://www.cs.mcgill.ca/~kaleigh/film/film_essay_constructivism.html)

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## Constructivism

Soviet constructivism is a modern art movement that began around 1913. Constructivist art, theatre and exhibitions were produced by a group of avant-garde artists in Moscow, Odessa and St. Petersburg. Constructivist art began with works of primarily abstract constructions. After 1916 the brothers Naum (Pevsner) Gabo and Antoine Pevsner sculptural added an emphasis related to the technology of the society in which they were created.

Constructivism was closely related to another modern art movement named suprematism, which sought “to liberate art from the ballast of the representational world.” It consisted of geometrical shapes flatly painted on the pure canvas surface.