Nature Sculpture

For artist Liz Alpert Fay, whose work is featured in the Katonah Museum of Art’s Spot Gallery through January 24, 2021, nature is both subject and inspiration. In the mixed-media sculptures seen below she has given new life to natural materials. She thoughtfully attaches found natural items to create new sculptures and shapes. Follow the process outlined in this handout to create your own Nature Sculptures inspired by Liz Alpert Fay’s work.

Liz Alpert Fay

Left to right:
Araucana & Grape Vine, 2010
Twisted Fork, 2010
Claw & Feather, 2010
Forked Branch, 2010
Flowers & Feathers, 2010
Twigs From Maple Lodge Road, 2010
Blue Jay Feather with Striped Branch, 2010

All works are twigs and other natural materials
Courtesy of the artist

Here is a close up of a twig sculpture by the artist. Notice the beauty in the new forms she has created. Even the cast shadow is interesting to look at.

© Katonah Museum of Art
Materials

Go for a walk outside and gather a bunch of natural materials. We suggest you stick to small items for this project. Twigs, bark, acorns, feathers, and small pine cones are a good place to start.

Then gather some materials for attaching the natural items together. We tried twine, twist ties, and floral wire. Liz Alpert Fay only uses natural materials like twine and string.
Make Your Own Nature Sculpture

Spend time on the design of your sculpture. Lay out how you want your pieces to fit together. Enjoy the creative process and the beauty of these simple materials.

Next, use your attaching material to twist and wrap your pieces together. Your design might change a little during this process which is okay. Admire your sculpture.

In this example we used one piece of green floral wire. It was easy to work with and added a graceful line to the sculpture.

Here we used individual pieces of twine to wrap around the piece were were attaching to the twig. It was easy to control the twine. In the back we tied a double knot.

For this one we used a twist tie for each attached spot. You need to keep the tie tight against the piece and wrap well.

We'd love to see what you create! Email a photo to: education@katonahmuseum.org or post a photo to FB or Instagram and tag #KatonahMuseumAtHome.