

"Stained Glass" Ornament

Materials:

Balloon (any shape – smaller)
Rigid Wrap Plaster Gauze
Art Tissue Paper
Prang® Payons
Prang® Media Mixer
Liquiché® Liquid Papier Maché

Optional:

Snow Dazzle Giant Flake Glitter
Activa Candle Glitter

Equipment:

Soft Brush
Paper Plate
Scissors (optional)
Decorative Punches (optional)

Grade Level: Any – degree of hand and design skills allow this project to successfully adapt for any level student.

Project Time: 2 shorter sessions with drying time in between. Suggest that ornaments be made in pairs – donating one to local charity or exchanging one with another student.

Reminder: Ornaments are not just for Holiday trees and seasonal decoration. They can be hung in a window – or used to decorate a table any time. Oval or egg shaped ornaments are especially spring like.

Key Words: ornaments; (any ethnicity) holiday decorations; Christmas Trees

Standards: Very young children should be able to cover the balloon and apply the colored paper. Second – 4th grade they should be able to make a distinct pattern and draw back into it to enhance the design elements. Middle school and Jr High - Purposeful designs – utilizing the line and color along with the transparency of the overlay of. Color plus added line. High school – specific recognizable design enhanced by the use of color. Detail and controlled line work, included.

Vocabulary: transparent; smooth; sphere; ovoid; triangle; contrast; complimentary color; hard edged; deckle edged; form; armature

Introduction: Across many cultures there are seasonal decorations – frequently spheres, hung in celebration. There are many projects that touch on this – most in celebration – specifically – of the holiday season – “Christmas”. Historically – ornaments have not been limited to this time of year and many cultures have specific patterns affiliated with one celebration or another. Contemporary décor tells us that the decorated orb need not be hung – it can be placed “as is” – on a shelf in a bowl or wherever we chose – singly or in groups.

The Form: choosing to make this ornament any size or shape you like – select a balloon as the form or armature. Stretch it out and blow it up – knotting the neck to keep it inflated. Cover the balloon with triangles of Rigid Wrap – dipped in water and smoothed into place. Slightly overlap the pieces. A total of at least two layers is recommended – it is not necessary to dry in between. When firm - Paint a coating of Liquiché over the surface to provide an exceptionally smooth surface and increase the durability of the form. Allow to dry thoroughly. (The balloon may stay inside or if preferred – it can be popped and removed).

The Color: Laminate pieces of art tissue paper (bleeding if you want the color to migrate – non-bleeding if you want the color to stay put) to the form with Media Mixer as both the adhesive and the glaze. For specific designs – use a scissors and or patterned punches. Layering multiple pieces of the same color will make the color more intense. For softer edges to the color – tear the tissue. Pieces can be as large and overlapping or as small and individual as you chose. If you decide that you want to build up more layers of color – allow them dry in between to prevent excessive bleeding- and muddy color.

The Line: Using Prang Payons – add details of line and texture. No need to add water – the media mixer will dissolve the Payons into a brightly colored flowing liquid like color.

Variations: add minute amounts of glitter – it will adhere with the media mixer – for dynamic effects – use the ultra fine Candle glitter or the exceptionally brilliant Snow Dazzle Giant Flake glitter. Strings- yarn – floss or other fibers may also be imbedded. Finished balls can either be allowed to stand alone or be strung like large beads into a garland – or small hanging sequences of balls. Draw on the forms with the Payons before applying the tissue for more subtle line and texture work. A paper clip – opened and held in place with the Rigid Wrap when forming the ball is an easy hanging device. Chenille Stems provide a novel texture and easy to form design element as well as easy hanging devices. Use the chenille either over or under the tissue – or both.