



PARRISH ART MUSEUM

Parrish Home Art Studios

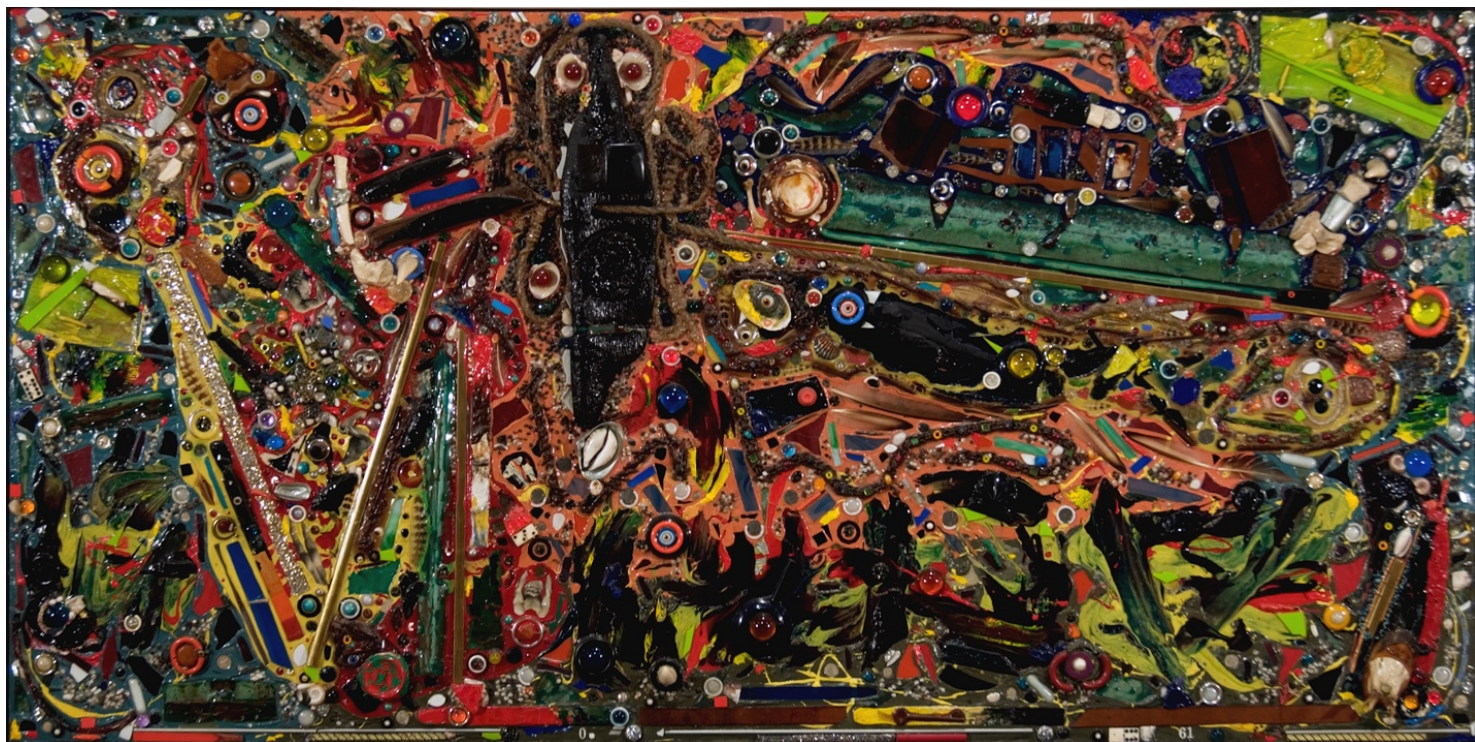
ASSEMBLAGES

Alfonso Ossorio (1916 – 1990) was an artist who saw enormous potential in everyday objects and knick knacks. In 1958, he began experimenting with adding materials like buttons, fake gems, ropes, and mirrors to his oil paintings. This was the start to his well known series of assemblages, which he named congregations. An assemblage is a sculptural artwork which is created by combining separate elements, usually found objects, together on a surface.

Detailed examples from one of his assemblages, titled *Unsuccessful Tow*, can be seen below. Here, Ossorio has incorporated a wonderful array of materials. Look closely – can you name any of the objects that he has used?



Detail of Alfonso Ossorio (American, born Philippines) *Unsuccessful Tow*, 1961-1968, Mixed media on panel, 48 x 96 x 10 1/2 inches, Parrish Art Museum, Water Mill, NY, Gift of the Ossorio Foundation, 1997.1



Alfonso Ossorio (American, born Philippines) *Unsuccessful Tow*, 1961-1968, Mixed media on panel, 48 x 96 x 10 1/2 inches, Parrish Art Museum, Water Mill, NY, Gift of the Ossorio Foundation, 1997.1

Some objects seen here include shells, dominoes, feathers, beads, marbles, plastic eyes, and horns. As you can imagine, Alfonso Ossorio had quite the large collection of items which he used for his artworks. Do you have a collection of your own? If so, what do you collect? Maybe they can be used for today's project!

Materials

Paper

Liquid glue

Markers or crayons

Found objects (ie: shells, beads, googly eyes, marbles, feathers, coins)

DAY 1

Step 1: Gather items that you would like to use in your assemblage. Some ideas may include shells, beads, googly eyes, marbles, feathers, coins.

Step 2: Start playing with the placement of these objects on your paper. Will they be scattered all over the page, or will they be concentrated in one section?

Tip: Be sure to leave space between each of your objects—this is important for step 4.



Step 3: Once you are happy with your object placement, use liquid glue to secure everything in place.

Step 4: Use crayons or markers to decorate your background with different types of shapes, lines, and patterns. Be sure to consider how you would like to draw around or between each object. For our example, we created a lot of designs which outlined the edges of our items. Be creative and come up with your own designs!



We would love to see what you made! To share, post your artwork on Instagram with the hashtag #ParrishHomeArtStudios

DAY 2

Take our first lesson one step further! Fill the empty spaces of your project with another layer of objects. Perhaps you would like to draw inspiration from the outdoors and collect natural materials like rocks, tree bark, sticks or leaves.

This time, think about how your new pieces will interact with the ones that are already fixed in place. Do you think you need to add bigger pieces or smaller ones? Maybe a combination of both! Will the items overlap or extend off the edges of your paper? Take a look at *Unsuccessful Tow* again, and see how Ossorio has layered objects on top of, and inside of, one another.

TAKE IT FURTHER

Learn more about Alfonso Ossorio on Artist Stories: <http://parrishart.org/artist-stories/#/artists/8684112>