

PARRISH ART MUSEUM

Parrish Home Art Studios

PAPER WEAVING INSPIRED BY ALAN SHIELDS

While growing up in rural Kansas, artist Alan Shields learned sewing, quilting, and embroidery techniques from his mother and sisters. He took an interest in the textile arts and continued to experiment with different sewing methods throughout his career. An example of this includes *Devil, Devil, Love*, pictured below.

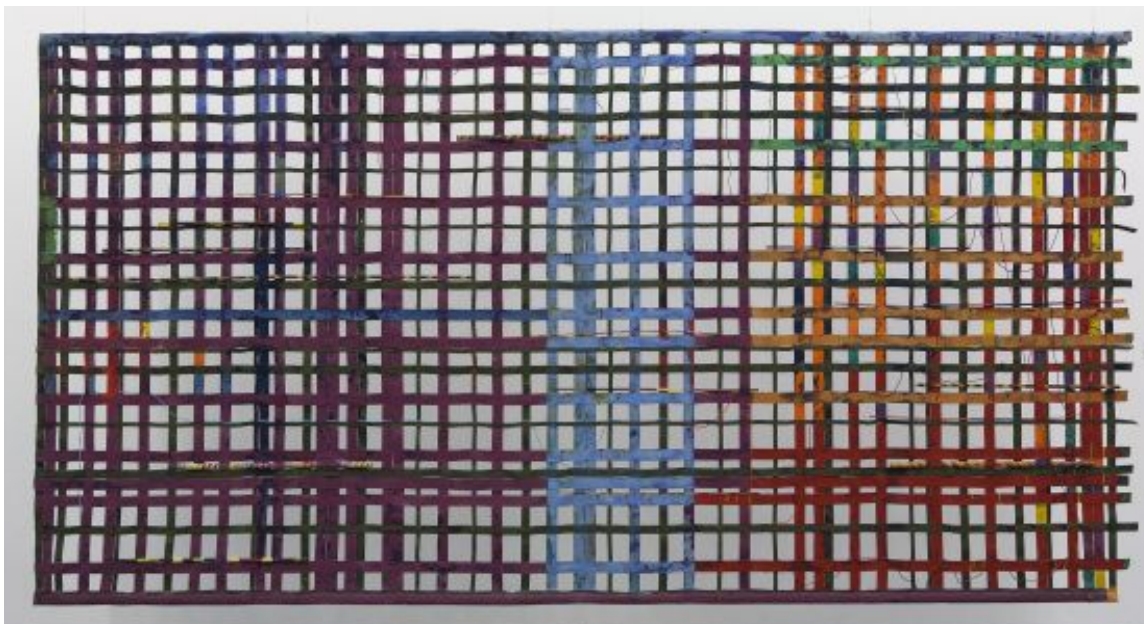
Materials

Assorted Paper, such as construction paper or newspaper

Scissors

Found materials, such as ribbon, fabric, grasses or twigs

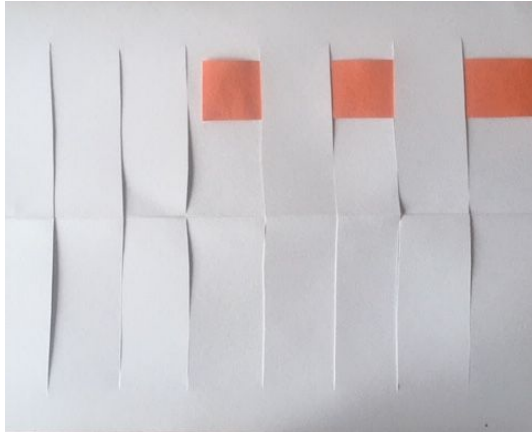
Markers, crayons, glue



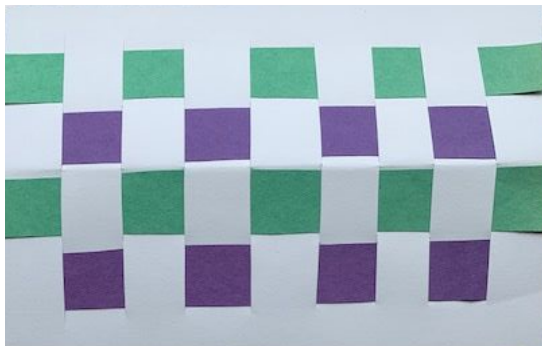
Alan Shields, American, 1944-2005, [Devil, Devil, Love](#), 1970, Cotton belting, acrylic, thread, beads, and wood, 96 x 194 inches, Parrish Art Museum, Water Mill, N.Y., Museum Purchase, Mr. and Mrs. Robert F. Carney Fund, ©Alan Shields/ Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York, 2007.15.

DAY 1

Use Alan Shields' techniques to create a paper weaving. Start by making a base with one piece of paper. Decide if you want your weaving strips to go vertically or horizontally. If you want to weave long strips, fold your base paper in half the "long way." Cut strips into the folded edge and leave an inch of uncut paper at the bottom. "Cut strips into the folded edge and leave an inch of uncut paper at the bottom."



Make your cuts about an inch apart, leaving an inch of uncut paper at the bottom. This will hold your strips in place. With another piece of paper, cut several one inch strips to weave into the base. Unfold your base, and with one strip begin to weave going under and over your base slit sections, make sure you are alternating under and over.



The second strip will be woven the opposite of the first. If you started under at the beginning, now begin by going over the base slits. Repeat until you've filled the base!



The strips don't need to be straight. See how your weaving looks if you cut the papers into wavy or zigzags strips! Enhance your weaving by adding drawn elements with crayons, pencils, or markers.

DAY 2

Cut a different size base this time, go larger or smaller, square or rectangular. Experiment with the structure of the base as Alan Shields did in the work below. Also, you don't have to stick to plain paper for your woven strips. Alan Shields used paper, fabric, belt webbing, and a variety of other materials, but you can use pipe cleaners with beads and buttons attached, fabric, ribbons, even wild grasses!



Alan Shields, American, 1944-2005, [Sun, Moon, Title Page, or Pampass Little Joe](#), 1971, Double-sided lithograph, relief print, screen print, and collage with stitching on paper, 26 x 26 inches, Parrish Art Museum, Water Mill, N.Y., Gift of Barbara Toll, ©Alan Shields/ Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York, 2007.11.

See what other things you can find around your house that you can use to enhance a new weaving. You could even weave in twigs, but be careful not to tear your base.

TAKE IT FURTHER

Learn more about Alan Shields and his inventive use of sewing and weaving on Artist Stories: <http://parrishart.org/artist-stories/#/artists/8685797>