

Erin Latham | Session 4:

El Anatsui: Recycled/Assembled Sculptures

List of Required Supplies: Pencil, piece of cardboard, mixed materials: round things, small wood pieces, beads, bottle caps, pieces of plastic, toothpicks, recycled materials, anything small, Elmer’s glue, pencils
Optional: tablecloth, newspaper for keeping table clean

Space/Facility Requirements: Running water, table space, chair

Student Time Required: 30-45 minutes

Information on the Artist:

El Anatsui is a Ghanaian sculptor active for much of his career in Nigeria. He has drawn particular international attention for his “bottle-top installations.” These installations consist of thousands of aluminum pieces sourced from alcohol recycling stations



and sewn together with copper wire, which are then transformed into metallic cloth-like wall sculptures. Such materials, while seemingly stiff and sturdy, are actually free and flexible, which often helps with manipulation when installing his sculptures.”

Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/El_Anatsui

Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_d3RIE195JI

Step-by-step Instructions:

1. Sketch out your design on your cardboard. Try to create areas of interest like the artist does by making different shapes.
2. Arrange your found object materials into colors, or textures, or sizes
3. Fill each shape you sketched with a material by gluing them down until you've filled the entire cardboard piece. (Try to create areas of interest again by using similar colors together, or similar materials).
4. Optional: Once everything is glued and dried, add metallic paint.

