

Museum of Craft and Design

DELIBERATE DISTORTIONS



PROJECT DESCRIPTION

[SF Design Week 2020](#) poses a series of questions about our views of the familiar, including “*what tools can you use to change reality?*”

This design prompt suggests common tools and materials found around the house, which can help transform images from one perspective to something entirely, creatively different!

RECOMMENDED AGE/SKILL LEVEL:

Recommended for 5+ with adult supervision for any cutting.

MATERIALS

Please note: All materials are suggestions—you may have other objects you want to experiment with.

Camera distortions:

- Phone or digital camera
- Wine or water glass
- Small hand held light
- Sunglasses
- Colorful cellophane or plastic
- Tissue paper
- Clear tape
- What else can you find?

Print image distortions:

- Magazine image or photo that you don't mind altering
- White-out
- Glue or glue stick
- Scissors or X-acto knife
- Tempera, acrylic paint or markers
- Embroidery thread and embroidery needle
- Sturdy backing paper such as watercolor

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INSTRUCTIONS

CAMERA DISTORTIONS

UV Filter:

Use sunglasses as a real-world lens. Hold up a pair in front of your camera and photograph the object of your choice.



Water Distortion:

Fill a wine glass with water and place it in front of a view or object you want to photograph. When you hold your camera lens up close and shoot through the glass, the photo's image will appear upside down, magnified, or distorted.



Unusual Portrait:

Take an unusual portrait or selfie by holding the glass up to part of your face, bringing the camera's lens to the other side of the glass, and clicking the shutter button. What happens if you add food coloring to the water?



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CAMERA DISTORTIONS

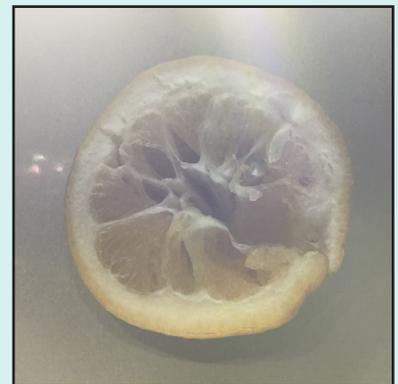
Tinted World:

Find a colorful, transparent or translucent cellophane or other plastic material. Hold it just against the front of your camera to use it as a manual lens. This test photo was taken through a blue plastic ruler.



Highlights:

Find a small electric light, such as a flashlight or bike light, and try holding it just next to your lens as you photograph. Experiment with the position of the light, or perhaps find or add a light of a different color. It will provide a unique addition to your photo!



PRINT IMAGE DISTORTIONS

Negative space:

Choose a photo or magazine image with a central figure, whether that is a person, plant, animal, or other subject. Carefully, cut out the central figure as precisely as you can. After the figure is gone, you'll see the empty (negative) space and the rest of the scene around it. Find another background color or image to fill the space left by that figure.



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PRINT IMAGE DISTORTIONS

Picture strips:

Gather a full page image or advertisement. Carefully rip it into strips, either vertically or horizontally. The strips should be parallel to each other. Next, find a colorful or patterned piece of paper, and glue the strips down to this base. Experiment with placing them farther apart, closer together, or woven. If your glued strips are far apart, add other collage material or drawings to the blank spaces if you like.



Paint photoshop:

Pick a photo of your own, or from a magazine, and use white out or acrylic paint to add something surreal or unusual to it. Try to make this part of the scene both strange and fitting in with the rest of the picture: add decorations to a person's face, color over part of a background image, or extend part of the image across the whole page.



Embroidered image:

Find a sturdy paper, such as bristol board or watercolor paper, to use as a base. Next, select one or more photo or magazine images. Experiment with keeping some images larger and some cut out closely, and try layering them in different combinations. When you like your composition, glue the images down. Select embroidery thread and choose colors and lines based on what you'd like to highlight or accent.



Artwork and photo by volunteer Marie Kare

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PRINT IMAGE DISTORTIONS

Paper stitching tips from artist and volunteer Marie Kare:

- Punch holes in your paper with your needle prior to stitching, making sure the entire needle can pass through each hole
- If your paper is delicate, place your holes farther apart to prevent tearing
- Go easy on pulling your thread taut – pulling too hard can tear the paper
- To prevent lumps and bumps from knots, tape the ends of your thread to the back of your paper to secure
- If your paper is very delicate, try pasting it onto a more stable material – cardstock, watercolor paper
- If your needle passes through any glue or tape, it may get a bit sticky. So, clean the sticky bits off between stitches to prevent any tears or snags.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

CONNECT SOCIALLY AND LEARN MORE

Facebook & Instagram: @MuseumofCraftandDesign

Twitter @SF_MCD

Share your project! Post and tag #MCDatHome

Learn More:

Check out this great video: [Forced perspective for kids](#)

Learn about more [DIY filters!](#)