

## Exploring Assemblage and Making Aluminum Foil Monsters

This lesson will guide you on how to use found objects and non-traditional materials to create an aluminum foil sculpture inspired by Antonio Berni's *La sordidez (Sordidness)*.

**Time:** 30 minutes

**Difficulty level:** Moderate

**Messy level:** Low



### Investigate the Work of Art!

1. The artist assembled a hodgepodge of elements like industrial garbage, scraps from a sewing basket, and domestic objects from everyday life to create this sculpture. Can you identify any specific materials that were used?
2. This sculpture is over five feet long. What would it have looked like if it had been made much smaller?
3. This sculpture is part of the series *Cosmic Monsters*, which Berni produced in response to the economic conditions and disparities in Argentinean society. Knowing that, how does it add to or change the way you see this sculpture?

To view a hi-res image of the work, visit the [MFAH Collection online database](#).

### Let's Make Some Art!

#### Gather These Art Materials

- Aluminum foil
- Paper scraps
- Tape
- Scissors
- Permanent marker
- Found objects from around your home (paperclips, nails, bobby pins, straws, buttons, screws, wire, yarn, thread, etc.)
- Glue gun and glue sticks
- Cardboard scraps

### Step-by-Step Artist Instructions

1. Find a clear spot at home where you can make art and get a little messy.
2. Take a large sheet of aluminum foil and crumple and press together to create the body of your monster.  
Remember not press the foil together too hard, as the air pockets in the foil will be helpful when adding materials.
3. Add the different found objects to the monster's body. This can be done by sticking items directly into the foil, clipping materials to parts of the foil, or adhering them to the foil with a glue gun.
4. Ask an adult for help using the glue gun, as it can get hot.
5. Use markers to add color or definition to the sculpture.
6. Once finished, set aside. Continue adding objects as you find more materials.

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Antonio Berni, *La sordidez (Sordidness)*, c. 1964, polymateric construction composed of wood, cardboard, plastic, roots, nails, enamel, and metals including steel, iron, and aluminum bottle caps, the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, museum purchase funded by the Caroline Wiess Law Foundation, 2004.1536.