

BLACK HISTORY MONTH - FEATURED ARTIST AND ART PROJECT IDEA

Excerpted from the Hirshhorn Museum

Learn about Artist **Sam Gilliam** (b. 1933) is a painter and member of the Washington Color School. During the 1960s and '70s, many people thought African Americans should make art about civil rights. Sam Gilliam defied this by making colorful experimental works inspired by the world around him.

Learn more about Sam Gilliam: <https://youtu.be/fKzyeXFZGyQ>
<https://youtu.be/SjHpTmzGg4o>

Art Project:

Colorful Coffee Filter Sculpture



One of the things that inspired Sam Gilliam was laundry hanging from clotheslines. He liked the way it looked and began to drape the canvas of his paintings. With your child, look up images of city clotheslines or hang something from a clothesline inside your own home. How does it look?

MAKE IT

Sam Gilliam used unstretched canvas to create his draped paintings. For this project, you will use a coffee filter as your canvas.



1. **Gather materials.** You'll need a coffee filter (paper towels and paper napkins are a good substitute), markers, spritz bottle, tape and a piece of paper.
2. **Color** the coffee filter.
3. **Add water.** Place the colored coffee filter on a protected surface, and then spritz it lightly with water. What happens?
4. **Create your sculpture.** Use tape or glue to attach the dry coffee filter to paper (or any other surface). Explore draping the filter in different ways to transform it into your very own sculptural





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