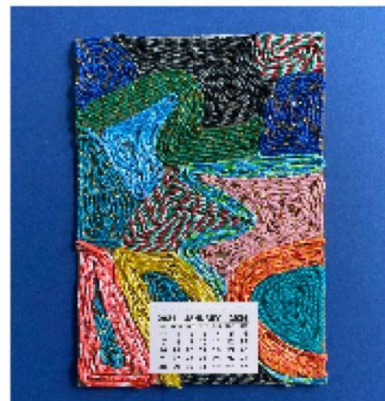


# We Are Family ≧ Elias Sime ≧ Festive Activities

These activities will use items from a collection of materials that Let's Make Art seek out during this festive time. They have included a guide to the variety of things to look out for and save to use for future projects.



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ARNOLFINI

**Elias Sime** is known for his intricate artworks made from everyday objects. The common misconception is that Elias Sime's projects use recycled materials. However, he doesn't just collect whatever is at hand to create his artwork with. Instead, he patiently collects materials over time, sometimes waiting years to gather enough to complete an artwork. He's interested in the time it takes to collect, store and make the artworks with an interest in the previous lives the objects have had.

One special place that Elias goes to find his materials is the Menalesh Tera (translated as "what do you have?") an open-air market in Addis Ababa. Let's Make Art also has a go-to place and a list of materials that they look out for, things they find useful for future workshops. One of the places they find materials is the Children's Scrapstore and they are so grateful to them for supplying all sorts of delights.

These two activities will use items from a collection of things Let's Make Art seek out during this festive time. They have included a guide to the variety of materials to look out for to use for future projects.

The joy is using your imagination to turn the things into something else, things that will kindle memories of the origin; the wrapper from a toffee that Grandma ate, the gift box from someone special, a flyer from a visit to the theatre, paper from beautifully wrapped presents, an uplifting card in the post, or plates from the best party ever!

## Items to make;

- ★ Elias Sime Calender - artwork inspired by Tightrope 2023 - cardboard from a cereal box and curling ribbon from a present
- ★ Bricolage Baubles - packaging with interesting graphics, paper plates and cups, gift wrap, sweet wrappers and images from magazines



# Items to collect;

Cardboard - colourful packaging and gift boxes

Old decorations - lametta, tinsel garlands etc

Recycled partyware - paper plates, cupcake cases etc

Magazines

Curling ribbon, string, twine etc

Flyers for concerts, pantomimes, films etc

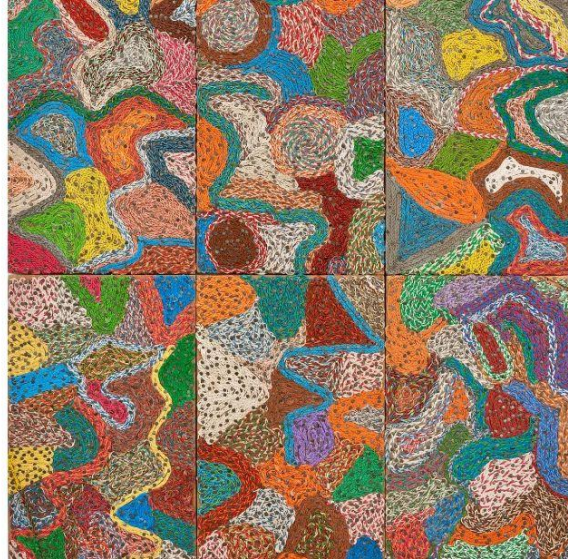
Christmas cards and gift wrap

Sweet wrappers



# Elias Sime Calender

A ribbon and string artwork inspired by Tightrope 2023, in which Elias Sime uses braiding and layering techniques to create a vast artwork. The curling ribbon is a good substitute when braided as it creates a similar look to the wires in Elias's work.



2024 JANUARY 2024  
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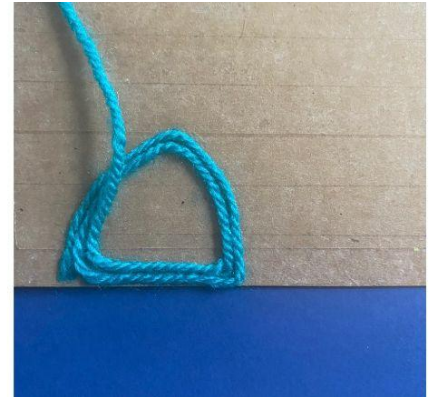
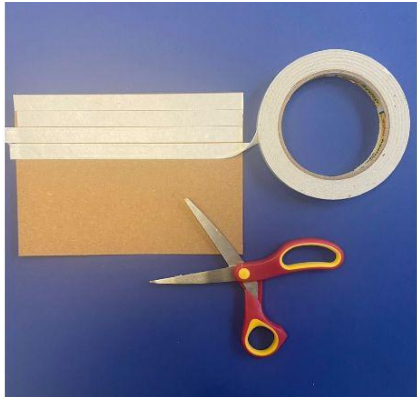
## MATERIALS

Cardboard from a cereal box  
Curling ribbon, string and similar  
Double sided tape  
Strong tape  
Calendar tab  
Scissors

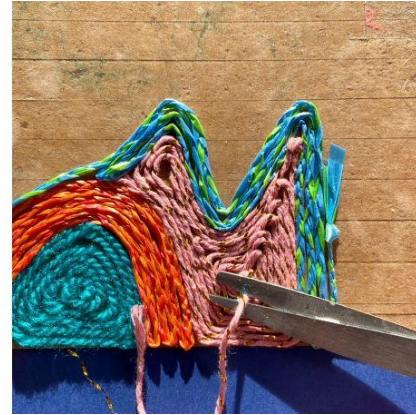
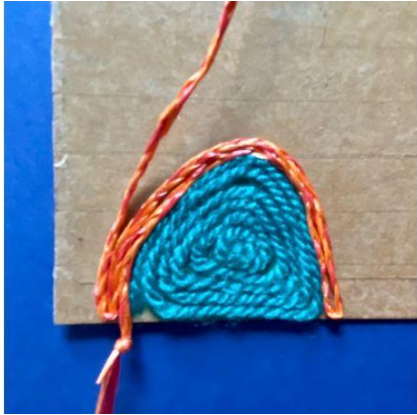


## WHAT TO DO

- ★ Cut a piece of cardboard from a used cereal box. You can choose how big you want your artwork to be - we made ours 15cm x 20cm.
- ★ Cover with strips of double sided tape and peel off the covering to expose the adhesive.
- ★ Knot three strands of curling ribbon together and secure them with a knot. Tape to a worktop or similar and begin to braid - crossing the right strand over and into the middle, then crossing the left strand over and into the middle and repeat until you reach the end.
- ★ Begin to add your braided ribbon, string or yarn etc a piece at a time by making a random shape, being careful to keep the string your sticking down close together until the space is full.

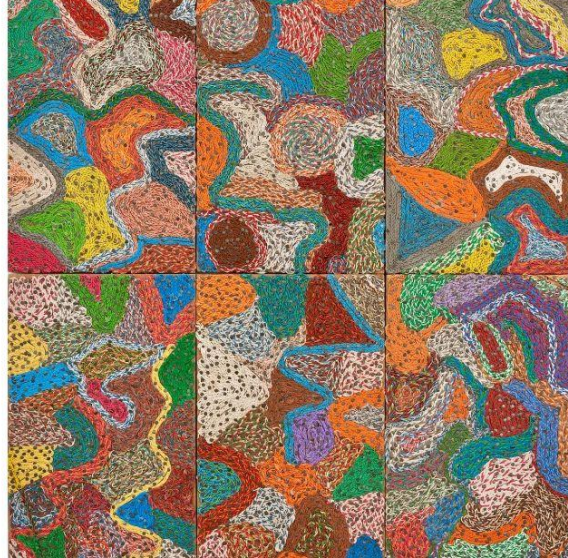


- ★ Keep adding the braided ribbon, string etc to the cardboard, keeping the different colours close to one another. Trim off any excess. Continue to fill until all the sticky cardboard is full and there are no more gaps
- ★ Neaten any strands hanging over the edge. At this stage you can apply a thin layer of 2 parts water with 1 part PVA with a small brush. Allow to dry overnight.
- ★ Add a calendar tab and with some strong tape, attach a piece of looped string on the back to hang up.





# Elias Sime Inspired Calender



## Bricolage Baubles

Using collected ephemera; cards, gift wrap, sweet wrappers, partyware etc over the festive period, these decorative baubles are very easy to make - each one is unique with the combinations of gift wrap, sweet wrappers, cards etc all containing reminders of joyful memories.



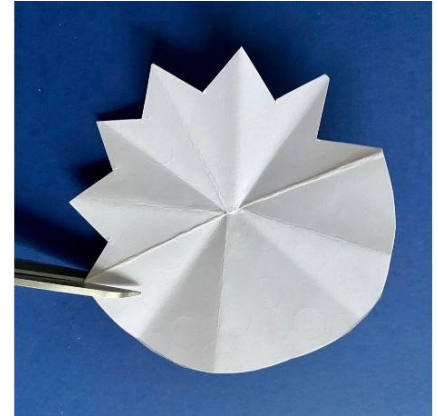
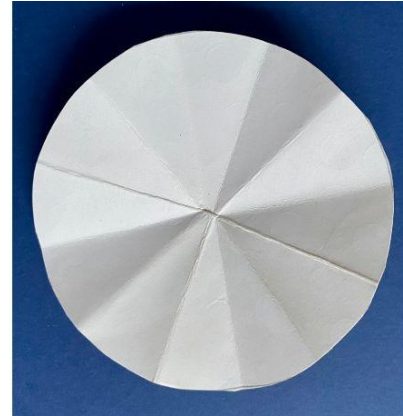
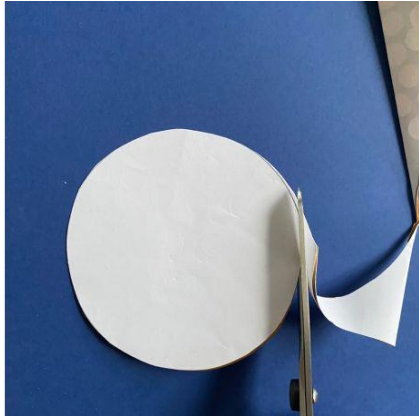
# MATERIALS

- Cardboard and paper from packaging
- Recycled partyware - plates, cups, cupcake wrappers
- Ephemera; greetings cards, magazines, flyers, sweet wrappers, gift wrap
- Old decorations
- Double sided tape and strong tape
- String
- Scissors
- A selection of circular things to use as a template; lids, bowls, cups etc
- Split pins and a pin
- Skewer

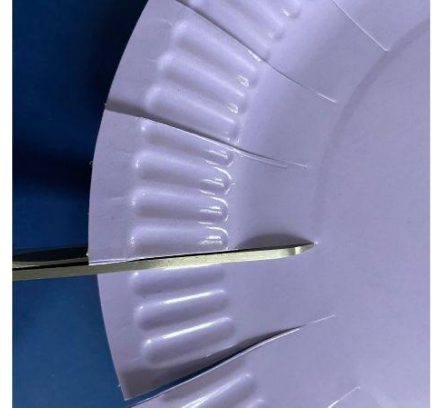
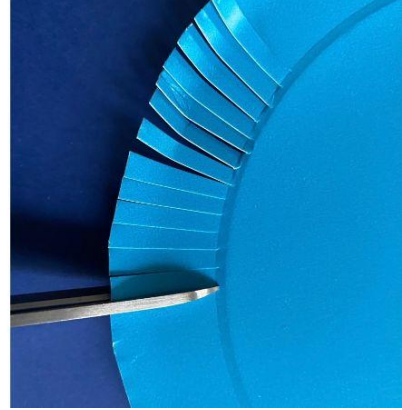
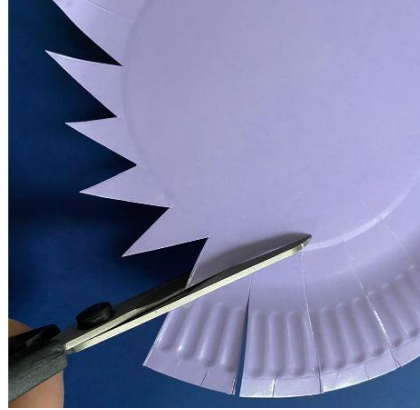


## WHAT TO DO

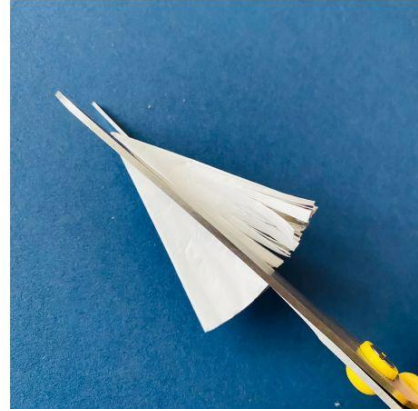
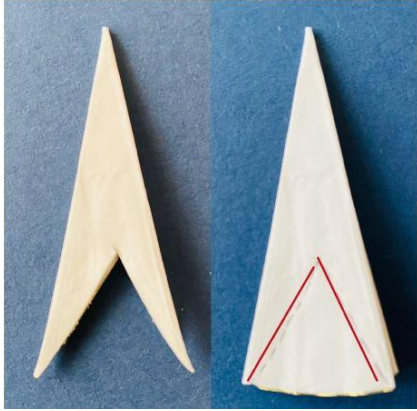
- ★ Clean any partyware; plates, cups etc
- ★ Using the different sized items, draw around them in pencil onto the back of the papers etc. carefully cut out lots of random circles from your collected ephemera.
- ★ Create different patterned edges to the circles by folding in half 3 or 4 times, then open out and use the lines as a guide to cut out even triangles or curves.



- ★ The paper plates are usually, very handily, divided into equal segments already - look carefully for 'guidelines' or edge patterns to separate evenly and cut into points, fringing or curved segments
- ★ There are usually embossed lines on the plates, which can be used to cut even sized circles out too.



- ★ Leftover cupcake cases or discarded sweet wrappers can be folded in half 3 or 4 times. Draw a guideline to make it easier or cut out a triangle by eye. When unfolded this will make a star shape or
- ★ Fold in half 3 times and cut the edges close together to make a fringed edge.



- ★ Cut small circles from thicker cardboard, like a shoe box, for the centre circle.
- ★ To make a hole in the centre of each circle you make, first use a drawing pin with a scrap piece of thick card underneath, then use a skewer or cocktail stick in the pinhole to make it bigger. The split pin will slot in with ease.



- ★ Layer different sizes, colours and patterned edges on top of each other. When happy with your design add all the pieces to a split pin and open at the back to secure all the layers together.
- ★ Add a loop of string, secured to the back with strong tape, to hang up and display individually or add many to a length of string to make a big beautiful garland.





# We wish you all a very Merry Christmas



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