

# Papier-Mâché Jug

Alison created the Fountain on the millrace especially for Fresh Air Sculpture in 2017. It is based on an idea of women talking and laughing as they gather round a well, collecting water every day.

Each tall jug has been built in layers of resin and fibreglass (like a boat) from a complex mould of silicone rubber supported by a fibreglass 'jacket'. The colour comes from a chemical brushed over the outermost layer of bronze powder.



You can make a Papier-mâché jug. Of course it won't hold water, but it will be decorative and it could hold some stems of dry flowers or pencils.

## What you will need:

- A small juice bottle
- Paper from old envelopes or parcels
- Card which can be cut or torn easily such as an egg box, clean wrappers for food, tea bags, yoghurt pots, etc.
- Glue – non-toxic wallpaper paste or white glue or make your own with help using a stove using tip below
- Sticky tape – sellotape, masking tape or parcel tape
- A couple of rubber bands
- Screw-top lid from a jar such as jam or pickles
- Acrylic paint or varnish or boiled linseed oil
- Paint brush and paints
- Patience

## Steps along the way:



Make a wigwam shape around a small bottle.

Fix the pieces in place with rubber bands and tape.

Tear strips of strong paper. Brush with glue – or dip them right in (not too wet!). Put them carefully all over the cone shape.

Leave to dry.

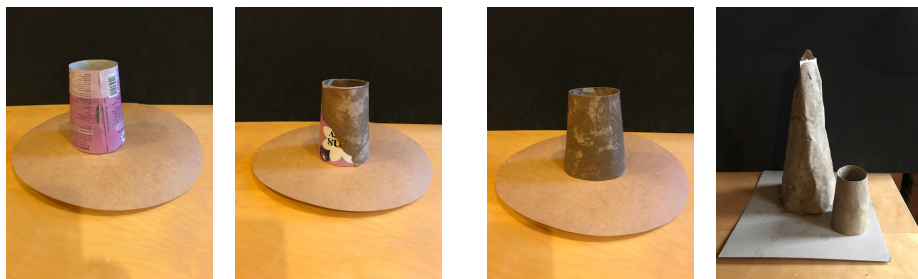


## TIP How to make flour and water glue:

Put a couple of tablespoons of plain flour in a pan and gradually add about 2 cups of water. Mix to ensure there are no lumps (a wooden spoon will do but an old fashioned whisk is best). Find someone to help using the stove. Heat the pan gently stirring all the time just until the mixture thickens. If it's very thick you can add some hot water to make it more runny. Take off the heat. Add a teaspoon of salt to prevent mould. Allow to cool.

This glue will keep for a few days, covered, in the fridge. It's not possible to give exact proportions of flour to water because different types of flour vary widely. Gluten-free flour gives a lovely smooth gooey mix.

Make another, smaller, cone shape perhaps using the card wrapper from a yogurt pot. Carefully cover with torn paper strips dipped in glue just as you have done for the larger cone. Leave to dry.



Join the two cone shapes together with the small one at the top, like a funnel.

You may need to cut the larger cone down a bit to fit the smaller one over its 'waist' or 'neck'. Use strips of torn paper dipped in glue to cover the join and leave to dry.

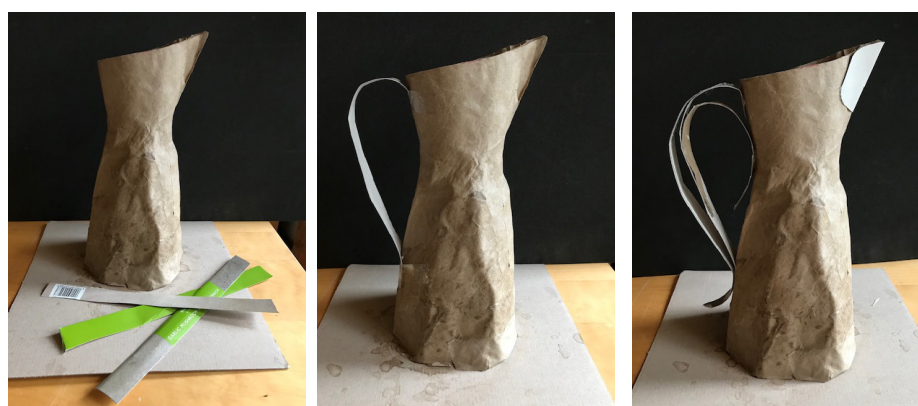


If you want to add a handle, cut strips from thin card or cardboard. Bend them to the shape you like and fix with tape. (You may need extra hands here).

Fix in place with glued paper and allow to dry, as before.

Now the jug needs a base. Put it on a piece of stiff card or cardboard. Draw round it. Cut along the line marked. Fix in place with tape and glued paper strips.

The jug is nearly finished, but it will look better if you fix a jam pot cover underneath to give a small 'shadow gap'.



Enjoy the process!



If you've been using flour and water paste, you need to seal the jug before you start to paint. Use a brush or a rag to give it a coat of acrylic paint (or varnish or boiled linseed oil) to make the surface less porous.

If you've been using white glue which will have dried clear you should be able to paint patterns and colour on your jug in any way you wish without delay!

