

# Over 2's Visual Arts activities

## Treasure Art Box



### Featured artist:

**Joseph Cornell** was an American artist best remembered for his Surrealist assemblage works housed in shallow wooden boxes. Cornell produced works which incorporated found objects arranged in narrative dioramas, featuring Victorian-era dolls, photographs, bottles, and other small trinkets.

### Resources needed:

- Any small box, such as a shoe box
- Paint or other mark making materials
- Wrapping papers, magazine or newspaper pages
- PVA glue, tape or Velcro.
- A collection of loose parts (e.g. feathers, shells, buttons, marbles, etc.)

*Duration: open ended, as long as children can keep their interest.*

### Implementation:

Select a box, such as a shoe box or old picture frame – an A6 or A5 size is ideal. Help your child create the background for the treasure box (you could use paint, or glue a piece of patterned wrapping paper, an old map, or a page from a magazine).

Help your child gather small objects that mean or symbolize something to them. Cornell filled his shadow boxes with feathers, buttons, shells and marbles. You could include things



like old toys, passport photos, puzzle pieces, scrabble letters, old stamps, photos, or clippings from magazines and newspapers.

To raise things up in the box to create a sense of depth, use a layer of cardboard underneath the image or objects. To hang objects from the top of the box, use wire or string.

Look at the example below for inspiration ([www.jenniferwilkinpenick.blogspot.com/2017/09/joseph-cornell-inspires.html](http://www.jenniferwilkinpenick.blogspot.com/2017/09/joseph-cornell-inspires.html))



*Intent:*

- To explore various materials and textures when making 3D construction arrangements.
- To talk about the properties and shapes of construction materials.
- To experiment with ways of joining construction materials together.

*Keywords: Treasure box, collection, joining, arrangement, composition, three-dimensional object.*

*Art dictionary:*

Assemblage -Assemblage is an artistic form usually created on a defined base layer that consists of three-dimensional elements projecting out of or from the base. It is similar to collage, a two-dimensional medium.

*EYFS Learning outcomes:*

**Expressive Arts and Design: Exploring media and materials**

(30-50 Months) •Uses various construction materials.

(40-60 Months) •Understands that different media can be combined to create new effects.

- Manipulates materials to achieve a planned effect.
- Constructs with a purpose in mind, using a variety of resources.
- Selects tools and techniques needed to shape, assemble and join materials they are using.

**Expressive Arts and Design: Being imaginative**

(40-60 Months) • Chooses particular colours to use for a purpose.

**Maths: Shape and Measure**

(30-50 Months) • Shows interest in shape by sustained construction activity or by talking about shapes or arrangements.



