

Design Basics 3-D

Art Institute of Ft. Lauderdale

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Structure (The Box Kite)

Concept:

Structure is in everything. The building we are working in, the cars we drive, the planes we travel in, and the bridges we cross to get from place to place. This project will begin to deal with the fine line between form and function; bringing together the aesthetic qualities that structure can have with its functional aspects.

When asked to think of a kite, the usual response is a diamond shaped form, made of sticks and paper. However, this is not the only form for a kite. There are forms of kites from both the Eastern and Western cultures that are all structurally based. You will be dealing with the box kite and its structural qualities. The type of box kite you deal with is entirely up to you. It may be the Regular Box, Tetrahedral, Conyne (Delta box), Double Box, Double Conyne, Hexagon, Flying Wedge, or any other form of box kite you can build.

Process:

Using one of the plans presented in class, or one you find yourself either through a book or the internet, you will build a box kite. After choosing which design of kite you will construct, you will use 1/8", or 1/4" dowel rods, rubber tubing, string, glue, or other materials you find necessary to build the frame of your kite. For best results, the kite you build should be at least 36" tall., and at least half that size (18") across. You do not want to use tacks, brads, nails or other materials to bind your dowels, as they may split the wood. The string may be used at joints to tie the dowels together, and glue on top of that will help reinforce the connection and add support. You may **not** use any prefabricated kits for building your kite.

For the covering of your frame there are many possibilities. Tissue paper will work, but is not very durable. Newspaper and craft paper are heavier, and will also work. Nylon, bed sheets or cloth (sheets) as well are good materials to use. The covering of the kite should have an original design on it, using good composition (making this final a combination of 2-d and 3-d design concepts). Your grade will be based upon design of the kite, the design on the kite, craftsmanship, and its ability to fly (if it doesn't fly, it is just a bunch of sticks and material bound together, not a kite). For the purposes of this project, flying will be defined as your kite floating in the air unassisted for at least 60 seconds.

*For this project, we will meet a time and place to be determined by the instructor. Details will be given during the workshop class. If it is raining at the site of the flying, during the time of the class, class will be held at school in our usual classroom.