TheBigOrangeM.com With Fusion Arts & The Ashmolean Museum presents a creative arts project...

MYTHICAL MASK MAKING!

Inspired by...
The Assirian Relief Of Winged Genius
An artefact at the Ashmolean Museum

Materials needed...
Lots of card
Pen & paper
Scissors
Cellotape
Elastic or string
& Imagination!

This guide includes:
Step by step guide
Brief historical reference
& can be viewed alongside instructional video
ASSIRIAN RELIEF OF WINGED GENIUS

THIS MAGNIFICANT CARVED SLAB (RELIEF), DEPICTS A BIRD HEADED SPIRIT WEARING ROBES AND HOLDS A CONE AND A BUCKET. THE CONE WAS USED TO SPRINKLE LIQUID FROM THE BUCKET TO CREATE A MAGICAL BARRIER THAT WOULD KEEP OUT CHAOS.

IT WAS COMMISSIONED BY THE ‘GLORIOUS’ KING ASHURNASIRPAL II (883-859BC), IT WAS PUT UP IN THE NORTHWEST PALACE AT NIMRUD, WHICH THE KING MADE THE NEW CAPITAL OF ASSYRIA. WHICH IS NOW IN NORTHERN IRAQ NEAR BY MOSUL.

THE ASSYRIAN KINGDOM THAT ASHURNASIRPAL II RULED, DEVELOPED IN THE NORTH OF MESOPOTAMIA AT THE BEGINNING OF THE 2ND MILLENIUM BC. THE ASSYRIA’S HAD SUPERIOR METHODS OF WARFARE, AND WERE FEARED BY THEIR NEIGHBOURING CIVILIZATIONS. THIS KINGDOM ALSO PROMOTED A GREAT DEAL OF CULTURE, FROM CREATING LIBRARIES, LANGUAGES, TO RESEARCH IN ZOOLOGY & MEDICINE.

MESOPOTAMIA MEANS THE “LAND BETWEEN THE RIVERS” IT WAS SITUATED BETWEEN THE TIGRESS AND EUPHRATES, AND PROVIDED FERTILE LAND FOR CULTIVATION.

A RELIEF OF THE ‘GLORIOUS’ KING ASHURNASIRPAL II
MYTHICAL MASK MAKING!

PART 1 - CREATE YOUR MASK BASE

1. Start off with a sheet of card & set landscape & fold in half.
2. Draw out mask shape design on fold line.
3. Cut out design! Unfold to check results.
4. Re-fold mask in half. Measure against face.
5. Mark eye line & draw eye hole shape.
6. Cut through eyeline line to cut out eye hole shape.
7. Tape on both sides of eyeline cut to secure base shape.
MYTHICAL MASK MAKING!

PART 2 - CREATE YOUR BEAK

MAKE YOUR BEAK ANY SIZE YOU WANT.
GET A PIECE OF CARD, SET IT LANDSCAPE.
FOLD IN HALF, LONG WAYS. DRAW YOUR BEAK DESIGN ON THE FOLD LINE.
CUT OUT THE BEAK END.

TO MAKE YOUR BEAK LONG OR SHORT:
ON THE OPPOSITE SIDE TO YOUR BEAK DRAWING.
CUT OFF AS MUCH LENGTH AS YOU WANT.

FOLD JUST THE BEAK END TOGETHER.
PUT A LITTLE STRIP OF TAPE OVER
THE TOP SO THE BEAK END STAYS TOGETHER.

CUT A 2-3CM SLIT AT THE BACK OF THE BEAK
FOLD THESE FLAPS BACK

OPEN THE BEAK BACK AGAINST YOUR MASK
USING THE SLIT IN THE BACK OF THE BEAK.
& SECURE WITH TAPE, CUT OFF ANY EXCESS...IE OVER THE EYE HOLES.
YOU CAN ADJUST THE TAPE ON THE CHEEKS TO LIFT THE BEAK HIGHER IF NEEDED.
MYTHICAL MASK MAKING!
PART 3 - FEATHER FACTORY!

TO MAKE FEATHERS:
START OFF WITH A SHEET OF A4
1 SHEET CAN MAKE 3 LARGE FEATHERS

FOLD THE SHEET OF PAPER IN HALF LANDSCAPE.
THEN OPEN IT UP. USING THE CENTRE FOLD AS THE MIDDLE,
CREATE TWO MORE FOLDS 5CMS EACH SIDE OF THIS CENTRE FOLD

DRAW A FEATHER ALONG THE LENGTH OF EACH
FOLDED PIECE OF PAPER

CUT ALONG EACH OF THESE NEW FOLDS
SO YOU HAVE 3 PIECES OF PAPER
FOLD THE TWO FLAT PIECES OF PAPER IN HALF
LENGTHWAYS

CUT EACH OF THESE FEATHERS OUT
REFOLD EACH FEATHER SO THE PEN MARKS ARE
ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE FOLDED FEATHER.

USING SCISSORS CUT SMALL LINES ALONG THE EDGE
OF EACH FEATHER. MAKE SURE YOU DONT CUT ALL
THE WAY THROUGH. OPEN OUT THE FEATHER.

REPEAT THIS PROCESS TO CREATE AS MANY
FEATHERS AS YOU WANT!

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Mythical Mask Making!

Part 4 - Complete Your Creation!

Face your completed mask away from you. Start with one central feather of your choice. The largest one works well for this.

Tape it about an inch below the mask outline. Then begin taping each feather on either side of the centre one, working your way outward.

Hint: Trim any feathers that block your eye holes. Nobody will see the back but you!

You can overlap the feathers. Once you have reached the edge of your mask, use leftover feathers to fill the gaps.

When you are happy with all of the feathers, make a small hole on each side of the mask and thread through some elastic so you can parade your mythical mask around!