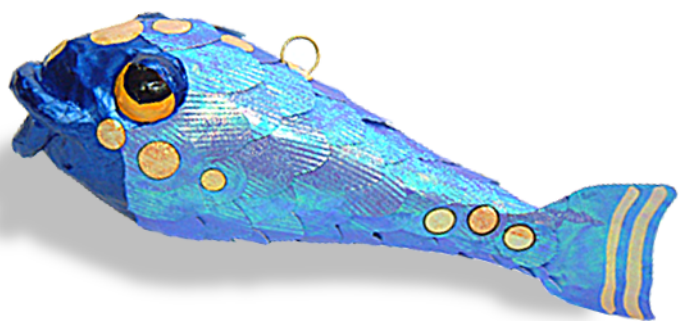


Iridescent Fish



Create an underwater fantasy in a child's room with a group of colorful hanging fish.

Materials Needed:

- 3-dimensional Paper mache fish form 24"x6"x6"
 - Foamcore or corrugated cardboard
 - Newsprint or cheap paper
 - Brown wrapping paper or paper bags
 - Masking tape
 - Gel medium or white glue
 - Found objects
- 1" hanging ring
- Acrylic paint
- 2-3 sheets iridescent paper
- 2 sheets index or cardstock paper
- Spray glue
- Scissors
- Paper crimper (optional)
- White glue or glue gun

To make a 3-dimensional paper mache fish form, cut a fish shape out of the foamcore or cardboard. Wad up tight, smallish balls of newsprint and tape firmly to the fish form. The masking tape can also be used for tapering the thickness, going from thick at the head area to thin at the tail. Create facial features if desired, using a Styrofoam ball cut in half and taped into place for the eyes; foam tubing or wads of newsprint (shaped by twisting), formed into lips and taped into place, etc. Using gel medium or white glue with water in a 1:2 ratio, dip various sized torn strips of the brown paper and smooth over the newsprint. Cover the form completely, using several layers. Let dry. Check the form for firmness—it should not be soft. If it has soft areas, add a few more layers of brown paper. Let dry again. To add hanging ring to the top of fish, tear (4) brown paper strips (approximately 2" x 1/2") and layer through the ring with watered down glue. Attach a few larger layers of brown paper over the ends of these strips to make sure the hanger stays attached. Coat completed fish form with undiluted gel medium or glue. When it's dry, the fish is ready for the next step.

Paint face and facial features, extending the paint well onto body where scales may not cover. Outside, use the Spray glue to adhere the iridescent paper to index or cardstock paper. Out of cardstock, cut out an appropriately sized, elongated scallop shape to use as pattern for fish scales. (Fish shown has scales that are 2 1/2" x 2") When satisfied with the size and shape of the scale pattern, lay out as many as you can fit on the back of the glued iridescent paper and cut out with scissors. You'll need at least 144 scales. (For extra texture, if desired, run iridescent paper through a paper crimper.) Gently bend 8-10 scales downwards on the center of the fish's back and tack into place with a glue gun or line of glue, under-lapping the scales as you go. Glue the following row, sliding the individual scales under and in-between the first row of scales to form a pattern. Continue with this pattern until the side of the fish is covered completely. Do the other side. When finished, trim any uneven scales around fish's head if necessary. Apply shapes of contrasting iridescent paper if desired.