

## Wine Bottle Cover or Sculpture

Mardi Gras inspired these sculptures, although after some brain storming, we decided to make them functional as wine bottle covers. Find a funny photograph or magazine ad to use as a reference guide/inspiration for exaggerated facial features. Get out your stash of found objects—broken jewelry, feathers, wigs, hats, and anything else you can find. Invite your best friend over and both of you can work on a creation while you laugh and talk and have a wonderful time.

### Materials Needed:

- Gel Medium or White Glue
- White Bond Paper or Brown Paper Bags
- ¾" Masking Tape
- Aluminum Foil
- Styrofoam Balls
- 3 1/2" Diameter Cardboard Tube
- Empty (or full) Wine Bottle
- Rubber Gloves
- Styrofoam Wig Head
- Foam Brush
- Decorative Papers (Mulberry, Unryu or Soft Unryu)
- Found Objects
- Optional: Acrylic Paints

Making the form is the most challenging and one of the most rewarding parts of this process. Start by covering a wig head with aluminum foil and laying it down face up on your work area. Tear the paper into a large pile of different size pieces. (By using only torn edges, you'll end up with a much smoother finish.) Put on several layers of the torn paper strips with gel medium (it dries faster than white glue) to form a mask. Only go about half way around the head, but include the neck area. Let it dry until you can remove it from the aluminum foil covered form without causing it to collapse, put aside to dry. Turning the head over, make another layered mold of the back half of the head, again extending down the back of the neck. Let dry and remove. These two forms will be joined later. Build up exaggerated facial features (lips, eyelids, teeth, noses, chins) on the face form, using Styrofoam balls, aluminum foil balls, or crumpled up paper, held in place with masking tape. Layer with more strips of paper for firm attachment and let it dry. Join the front and back forms together with masking tape, then layers of paper mache strips--be sure to put a few strips on the inside joints for added strength. Let dry. Make sure the cardboard tube fits the wine bottle. Cut the cardboard tube to about 15", and attach the head to the tube with masking tape. Layer with paper mache strips and let it dry. Add ears if you want. (Ears are good. How else can you attach earrings?) Check for balance. The head has to stand up on it's own (just in case you drink the wine) without tipping over, so add weights if necessary. Once dry, your form is ready for final finishing. This is the really fun part—the part where you get to express yourself with wild abandon.

