POST-VISIT ACTIVITY

EveryTHING is Art!

Level: Ages 3 and up

Objectives
- To explore the potential of found objects as art materials.
- To see everyday materials in new and different ways.
- To practice and develop creative problem solving and visual language skills.
- To explore creative alternatives to buying and using traditional art supplies.

Vocabulary
Collage – A collection of materials combined to make a whole. From the French *coller* which means to stick or glue.
Assemblage – A sculptural form of collage in which natural and/or found materials are combined to create the whole. In a mixed medial assemblage, some drawing, painting or sculptural elements may be included.
Construction – The most three dimensional type of collage. A form made of combined materials and found objects.
Found Object – An item which is found rather than purchased or created and not originally intended as art but found to have some aesthetic value.

In the process of painting the tissue papers used in the collages he creates for his book illustrations, Eric Carle began to explore the aesthetic qualities of some of the by-products of this process. This playful exploration led to some assemblages and found materials constructions that may have been on view in the galleries when your class visited the museum. After having viewed “trash” as art and exploring the properties of found materials before your museum visit, you may want to use these suggested activities to explore using found objects as art materials.

Eric Carle, *Paint Stirrers with Metal Door*

*Latch*, 2000
- Puppet Making – Invite your students to construct a puppet character to use in dramatic play. Start by having students look at the objects with the focus of identifying objects that might be used for heads, bodies, limbs, facial features, etc.

- New Inventions – Propose that your students use the found materials to create models for new inventions. What does the invention do? What problem does the invention solve and how?

- Found Materials Mobile – select a common object on which to tie found objects (it’s easiest to use objects that already have holes.) You might have your students make a mobile inspired by a particular poem or story.

- Castles and Other Dwellings – Use the materials to construct buildings and create/ imagine stories. Who lives in this place? What is it like to live there?

- Have students brainstorm what to make- Once they are familiar with the materials, they may have many ideas.

**Materials Suggestions**

- Tacky craft glue works best as an adhesive. You may want to discuss with your students some of the challenges and advantages of working with thick glue.

- For older students, pose the challenge of connecting objects by only tying them together with thread and/or embroidery floss.

- Have students think about their structure before securing their connections. Does it need a base? With younger students, discuss the importance of secure connections and ways to use an appropriate amount of adhesive.

**When the work is done, the learning isn't over…**

Ideas for extending the experience:

- Writing: The story behind the object… A script, advertisement, or story.

- Drawing: Draw the assemblages and constructions as in the pre-visit activity or with a dark gel pen on white paper. Do a reverse blue print: Do a white drawing on blue paper after the object has been constructed.

- Display the finished constructions along with photos of the students’ process.