

The Art of Recycling Three

Drywall Bas Relief Carving

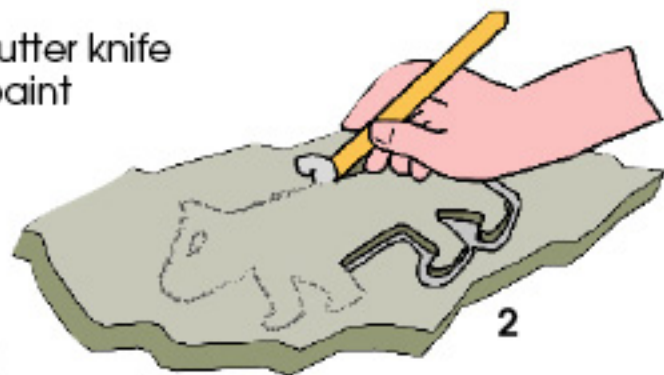


Bas Relief is French for low relief, a type of carving used for Egyptian hieroglyphs and on Greek and Roman architecture.



What You Need:

- A piece of drywall (It can be either an old piece from a wall tear-down or a scrap from new construction. An irregular shape is fine.)
- Food coloring, watercolor or tempera paint.
- Water and spray bottles (Empty glass cleaner bottles are great.)
- Popsicle sticks or butter knife
- Pencils, glue and paint



What To Do:

1) Spray the top of the drywall with water or soak it in a shallow sink or tray of warm water for about 2-5 minutes until the top layer of paper peels away. (The top of a piece of drywall is the side which tapers down at the edges. The bottom of a sheet of drywall tends to have the manufacturers name stamped on it.) Don't overdo it or your drywall will crack when you try to move it.

2) Once you have the paper all or mostly removed, you can carve directly into the drywall using a popsicle stick. You may choose to outline an image in pencil first. If the drywall is too hard, soften it by spraying water on it.

3) When you carve, make sure you don't go too deep because the drywall will lose its strength in areas that are too thin.

4) When you have your design fully carved you can either leave it as is or paint it using whatever paints you have available to you.

Optional:

- After you have peeled the top layer of paper away and your drywall has had a chance to dry, you might want to glue it to a piece of cardboard or wood for added strength.
- To seal the drywall, mix up a mixture of glue and water (80% white glue, 20% water) and spray the drywall with the mixture. You could instead use hair spray or a spray varnish to seal the drywall as well.

