

## Duvian Montoya

### Bird's Nest Activity

During quarantine, Duvian Montoya has been influenced by nature. When discussing his inspiration, he said, "After a few days of quarantine I began getting cues from nature and its cycle of life. While on a family walk in the woods, I thought that the acorn would be a great example of change, hibernation and rebirth. With this piece I hope to uplift people that are struggling with the change into believing in the rebirth of a new and hopeful world."



Duvian Montoya, *Inception/Rebirth/Genesis*, 2020, gouache on paper

There's no right or wrong way to go about building a bird's nest and kids of all ages can experiment with using the materials in different ways to create the most functional nest they can. Are you up to the challenge?

**Duration:** 45 minutes

**Ages:** 2 – 6 years old

## Materials:

- Paper plate
- Scissors
- Natural materials (twigs, leaves, grass, moss, etc.)
- String or yarn
- Imagination



## Brainstorm:

- How strong can you make a bird's nest?
- Will your bird's nest stay together when the wind blows? (Test it with a hairdryer with parent assistance!)
- How deep does your nest need to be to keep the eggs safe?
- Would your birds' nest be comfortable?
- What happens if it rains? Will water collect inside or drain away? (Test it outside with a watering can.)

## Instructions:

1. Go outside and collect natural materials that you think you might be able to use to make a bird's nest, such as twigs, moss, feathers, and grass. Keep a look out for yarn or string, or add some that you find inside.
2. Lay your materials out on the table, along with a paper plate and a pair of scissors. Add items to your paper plate and build your nest.



3. Finish off your nest building challenge by making eggs to go inside.

Wrap colored yarn around short twigs, or make eggs from clay.

4. Send your masterpiece to [heather@mattmuseum.org](mailto:heather@mattmuseum.org). We might even share it on social media with our followers!



**Duration:** 45 minutes

**Ages:** 7 years and older

## Materials:

- Air dry clay of any color
- Glue gun
- Natural materials (twigs, leaves, grass, moss, etc.)
- Imagination

## Brainstorm:

- How strong can you make a bird's nest?
- Will your bird's nest stay together when the wind blows? (Test it with a hairdryer with parent assistance!)
- How deep does your nest need to be to keep the eggs safe?
- Would your birds' nest be comfortable?
- What happens if it rains? Will water collect inside or drain away? (Test it outside with a watering can.)

## Instructions:

1. Pinch the clay into the shape of a nest. Add twigs and other natural materials while the clay is still soft.

Any color clay will work. We will be painting the eggs and adding detail to the nest, so you won't see the clay when you are finished.



2. Shape the clay into shapes that look like eggs.
3. Let everything air dry.
4. Paint the eggs. You can look up what color eggs different birds lay.
5. Add more twigs with a hot glue gun.
6. Send your masterpiece to [heather@mattmuseum.org](mailto:heather@mattmuseum.org). We might even share it on social media with our followers!

