

Stick Built

Art and architecture, made with sticks by humans and other builders
Explorations and projects for all ages



STRUCTURES

Explore the large, interactive sculptures of **Patrick Dougherty**

[Video 1](#)

[Video 2](#)

Birds can be art connoisseurs, too!
See **Bowerbirds** building and decorating their courtship bowers.

[Vogelkop Bowerbird Video](#)

[Satin Bowerbird Video](#)



Watch beavers tending to their dams and lodges.

[Video](#)

If you have a yard and are doing some spring clean-up, here's a great way to utilize fallen branches; make a "wikiup" shelter/playspace! It's a big project, but you can build at your own pace, and enjoy the results for a long time. You will also have learned a great wilderness survival skill! (*Remember to check your HOA rules before building.*)

What you need (for adults or with parent's permission): a saw or hatchet, rope, loppers and branches.

[Video](#) Recommended for parents only – shows a campfire inside the shelter. The structure being built here is quite large, but you can scale it down.



No yard? No problem! Make a "tiny house" version of the wikiup for fairies, using materials you find on a walk!

See Leah Cohen's [fairy house tutorial slideshow](#)

FIGURES



Several artists who work with sticks think of them as kind of a drawing material – a means to make a line. In the case of Olga Ziemska's piece above – which stands about 9' tall - the artist also uses the ends of her sticks as points. You can use sticks to "draw" in space – making sculpture – or draw on a flat plane if you prefer!

WATCH

Discover the sculptures of **Deborah Butterfield**.
Many of her horses are larger than life size!

[Image search results](#)
[Short spot](#) [Full artist's talk](#)



[Image Source](#)

MAKE



[Image Source](#)

Use sticks and dried grasses to create a tiny herd of your own! Adhesives optional.

MAKE



[Image Source](#)



Wall piece by
Greenbelt artist Paul Downs
via the New Deal Cafe

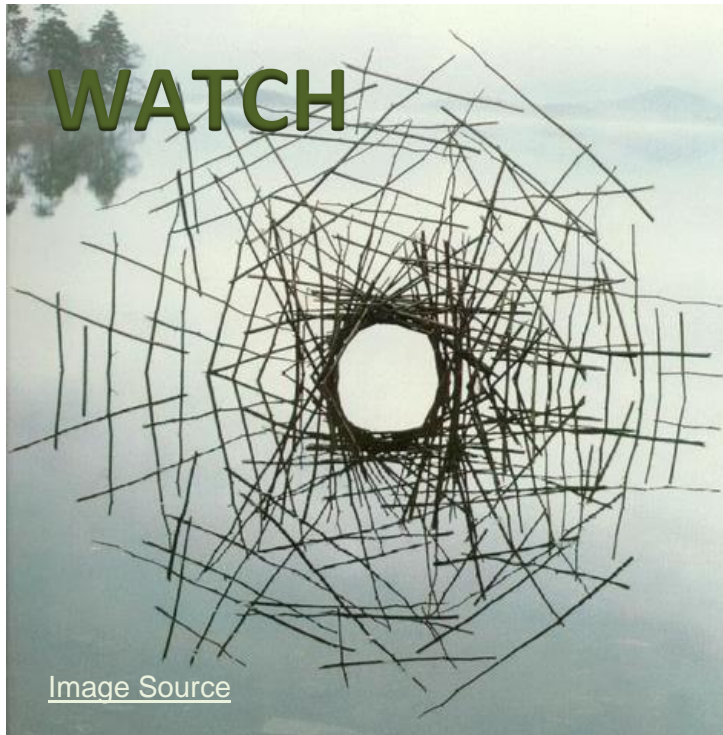


[Image Source](#)

With some water-based glue, you can try this approach! Add color and paper details as desired.

NON-REPRESENTATIONAL ART

Otherwise known as “non-objective art”, work of this type takes pleasure in pure geometric, natural and assembled forms, without specifically representing something outside of themselves. What forms are most pleasing to *your* eye?



Andy Goldsworthy

This Scottish artist made a lot of great work directly in nature with sticks, leaves, ice, dirt, rocks and other materials found on site – often with a “leave no trace” approach. You can access two documentary films about him on Amazon and elsewhere. These are the trailers: [Rivers and Tides](#) and [Leaning into the Wind](#).

The possibilities are endless! Send photos of your stick structures and art to ndewald@greenbeltmd.gov. Photos may be shared online.



Compiled by [Greenbelt Recreation ARTS](#)



See work by Maryland artist and educator [Marsha Wolfson Ray](#)



MAKE

Create a wreath with sticks. Incorporate catalpa seed pods if you find some. At your option, paint some or all of the materials. Other supplies you'll need: cardboard from the recycling bin; scissors; garden snips to cut the twigs (optional); paper grocery bag or craft paper; glue; double-sided tape (optional); and a ribbon or wire to hang your finished wreath. [Tutorial video](#)