Deborah Kass is an American mixed media artist. Her art explores connections between popular culture, identity, and art history.

Materials needed:
- Air dry clay, playdough, or cardboard
- Tape and scissors (optional if using cardboard)
- Tempera paint or markers

Look
- Look at the first image of this sculpture. What letters do you see? What does it say?
- Explore the second image showing the other side of this sculpture. What does it say now?
- Both of these words are commonly heard in NYC. “Oy” is a Yiddish expression used to express concern or alarm. “Yo” can be used as a casual greeting and also means “I” in Spanish.
- Have you ever heard either of these words spoken before?
- How might you use each one in a sentence?

Process
- Think of a letter or short word that is meaningful to you.
- Use clay, playdough, or cardboard to construct this word or letter. If you are using cardboard, you might start by drawing thick letters on your cardboard then cutting out each one. Leave a little extra space on the bottom of each letter to fold under.
- Create a fold at the bottom of your letter and glue or tape your folded piece to a larger piece of cardboard (see illustration to the left).
- Use tempera paint or markers to add color and pattern.
At-Home Art Projects for Families

Sculptural Object Boxes

For this activity, you will add sculptural and decorative elements to a small shoe box to create a special case for objects that are important to you.

Arlene Shechet is an American sculptor, born and raised in New York City. She is best known for her ceramic sculptures and experimental techniques. In 2017, the Jewish Museum invited Shechet to create an artwork for its collection. Shechet created the sculpture, *Travel Light*.

Materials needed:
- A small shoebox
- Cardboard
- Tape
- Scissors
- Markers
- Paint and paint brushes (optional)

Look:
- Describe what you see in this image.
- What objects do you notice?
- What might the title of this sculpture, *Travel Light*, tell you about the artwork?
- In this sculpture, Arlene Shechet included copies of her grandmother’s candle holders, brought by her grandmother from Belarus, which is in Eastern Europe, when she moved to the U.S. in 1920.
- What are some important objects you might bring with you if you moved to a new place? Why?

Process:
- Use cut pieces of cardboard to construct three-dimensional forms and add them to the top and the sides of your shoebox.
- You may use the cardboard to create objects that are meaningful to you or cut unique decorative forms.
- You may construct up and out by creating a small fold on the bottom of your cardboard pieces and gluing or taping the folded part to your box.
- Consider attaching multiple cardboard pieces to each other by cutting slots in your pieces (see illustration above).
- Use paint or markers to add color and pattern to your sculptural box.

At-Home Art Projects for Families

Imaginative Containers

For this activity, you will use small found objects and clay to transform a jar into an imaginative container or a charity (tzedakah) box.

Jeremiah Maloi is a South African artist. He is part of a folk art collective called Monkeybiz, which supports local artists who work with traditional African beadwork. This work of art represents a charity (tzedakah) box used to collect money for people in need.

Materials needed:
- A small jar or container
- Colorful and patterned papers
- Small found objects such as beads, buttons, and bottle caps
- Wire, thread, and/or string
- Glue and/or tape
- Air dry clay or playdough (optional)

Look:
- What is this charity (tzedakah) box made of?
- Where do you see patterns?
- What do you notice about the people? What might they be doing?
- This container is used for collecting money for charity or tzedakah, the Jewish tradition of giving to others in need.
- What else do you notice about this work of art?

Process:
- Use your found objects to transform your jar into a unique container.
- You might wrap your container with string or wire, glue small objects or paper to it, or tie beads and buttons to it with string and wire.
- If you have clay, you might use it to add decorative elements to your container.
- Optional: Use clay to create a sculpture of a person or a few people to surround your container inspired by Jeremiah Maloi’s charity (tzedakah) box.
- Decorate your sculpture(s) with small found objects such as beads and buttons. You may attach the objects by pushing them into the wet clay or by using glue once the clay has dried.