



An Art Experiment: Nick Cave and *Soundsuits*.

This short art activity is aimed at introducing children to artists and art history concepts. It also encourages creativity and play. Send in your images to ppe@casulapowerhouse.com or tag #CPACCREATIVES on social media.



Photo © Nick Cave

Nick Cave Born February 4, 1959, in Fulton, Missouri. He is an American fabric sculptor, dancer, and performance artist. By combining sculpture and fashion, Cave creates Soundsuits (wearable sculptures) that generate sound as the wearer moves. These began as metaphorical suits of armour in response to the Rodney King beatings and have developed into suits for empowerment. Soundsuits camouflage the body and conceal race, gender, and class, making the viewer look without judgment.

Nick Cave's upbringing gave him an artistic attentiveness to found objects and his work is often created with second-hand materials.

Make Your Own Soundsuit

Materials:

- 1 x Bag or sack– plastic, garbage or cloth
- Different materials: pasta, twigs, balloons, paper strips, ribbon, stickers, buttons, soft toys ect. Anything your imagination can think of.

Method:

1. Lay out your bag or sack
2. Cut holes for arms
3. Cut hole for head
4. Attach your materials to your bag/ sack.
5. Put on your own Soundsuit.

Questions and Activities:

- What materials does Nick Cave use in his work? Make a list of the materials that he uses.



Nick Cave, *Soundsuit*, 2015, mixed media including wire, bugle beads, buttons, fabric, metal and mannequin, 89x47x20inches.



Nick Cave, *Soundsuit*, 2012, dogwood twigs, wire, upholstery and mannequin, 95x32x41 inches.



PBS NewsHour: Nick Cave Brings Art, Sculpture to Life With 'Soundsuits', video still,
Clip: 04/24/2012
www.pbs.org/video/pbs-newshour-nick-cave-brings-art-sculpture-to-life-with-soundsuits/