

# PLAY-DOH MURRINE



**R**ichard Marquis, an American glass artist, has profoundly impacted glass art in America during his fifty-year career. Murrine, or pieces of glass made with an image or pattern going through them, is an element that repeatedly shows up in his work. Marquis arranges these pieces of glass to create incredibly complex patterns and textures. This activity will help you understand the process of creating murrine and how Marquis incorporates them into his work.

## MATERIALS:

Play-Doh  
 Sharp kitchen knife  
 Rolling pin or dowel  
 Baking sheet  
 Box lid, picture frame, bowl or vase  
 Hot glue

## LEARNING STANDARDS:

**Visual Arts 1.2:** Generate and conceptualize artistic ideas and work.

## INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Prepare three colors of Play-Doh by rolling into cylinders approximately 6" long.
2. Choose the color you would like to be the center of your murrine and set aside.
3. Roll your second and third colors into flat sheets that are thin enough to wrap around the first color but not too thin that it becomes unworkable.
4. Place the first color onto the second color and roll it up like a sushi roll.
5. Repeat this process with the third color.
6. Begin to gently press the cane into a square shape using a sheet or a rolling pin.
7. Keep stretching and rolling while keeping the square shape intact.
8. When you have reached the desired thickness, cut the cane into 1/8" pieces.
9. Allow Play-Doh to dry in a warm, well-ventilated area for about a day.
10. Once Play-Doh is dry, get creative! Try hot gluing murrine onto a sturdy backing, such as a piece of wood, bowl, or old flower vase, to create a mosaic. You can also add hooks or loops to create jewelry.
11. Email a photo of your completed piece to: [juniorcurator@museumofglass.org](mailto:juniorcurator@museumofglass.org)