

BE THE ARTIST

Lee Bontecou and Charcoal Art

Lee Bontecou is known for her paintings and sculptures that seem to come off the walls. These works of art are made from canvas, steel, and black velvet. Bontecou was influenced by the wars she lived through and their aftermath. While working on a sculpture, she noticed the soot from a blow torch was the blackest black she had ever seen, and she used it for her drawings. Try drawing worlds like Bontecou.



Supplies

- charcoal/craypas (preferably black)
- pens and/or pencils in different colors
- a heavy paper which will take layers of charcoal
- an eraser
- paper towels



Instructions

Make a charcoal drawing like Lee Bontecou:

- Cover the whole sheet of paper with black charcoal; cover the page a couple of times to get the blackest black possible as your base.
- To draw shapes into the blacked paper, remove the black by rubbing the surface with a paper towel. These examples began with roundish heads and then use of an eraser to make the teeth even whiter.
- You can stop now and enjoy what you have made or, to take the drawing further, draw on the charcoal drawing with a black pen to add more details.



Lee Bontecou also created lighter drawings with a little color. Use your fingers that are now coated with black charcoal from making your first drawing; rub them on a fresh piece of paper, making little waves or circles. Using colored pencils or crayons, add color to the waves and drawings.

To learn more about Lee Bontecou watch this video: <https://bit.ly/3qKUIZu>

Send a photo of your project to mycreation@skokielibrary.info and we may feature it on social media.