

Paper Narrative Vessels Inspired by Marva Lee Pitchford-Jolly

Marva Lee Pitchford-Jolly (1937 – 2012) was an African American ceramicist who started out as a child in Mississippi, handbuilding with clay mud after it rained. Later in life, she turned her focus back to art and began teaching ceramics at Chicago State University. Her piece, *Sunday Baptism*, is housed in RAM's permanent collection and is one example of her most well-known type of work, "story pots." She was an active member of her community and always encouraged African American women artists to create and exhibit together. RAM invites you to get inspired by Pitchford-Jolly and create a narrative vessel!



Marva Lee Pitchford-Jolly

Sunday Baptism, 1985

Glazed earthenware

20 1/4 x 15 1/2 inches diameter

Racine Art Museum,
the Karen Johnson Boyd Collection

Photography: Jon Bolton

Not Currently on Display

Supplies:

- Paper
- Scissors
- Art supplies (colored pencils, markers, crayons—use what you have!)



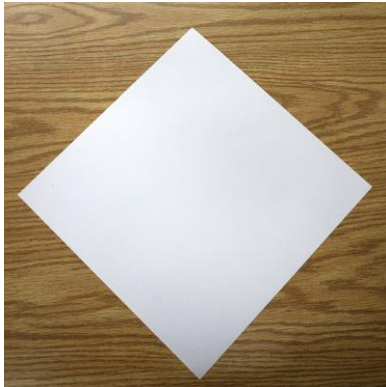
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Instructions:

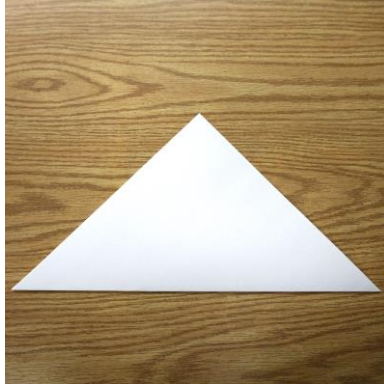
- 1) Cut your paper into a large square—at least 8-12 inches recommended. The bigger the square, the bigger the cup you have to tell your story!
- 2) Choose and create one of the two origami vessels by following the instructions below. *Tip: The Flat Origami Vessel is easier and may be more appropriate for younger artists.*
- 3) Decorate your vessel with a narrative design. Take inspiration from your life, dreams, or even a book or movie you love!
- 4) Add color to your design using whatever art materials you have on hand!



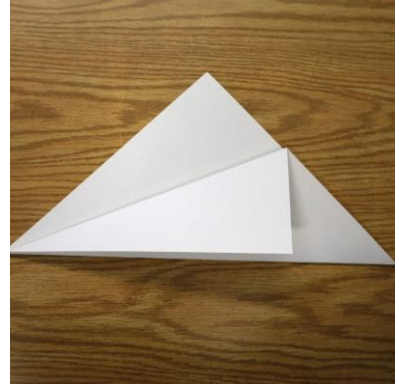
Flat Origami Vessel Instructions



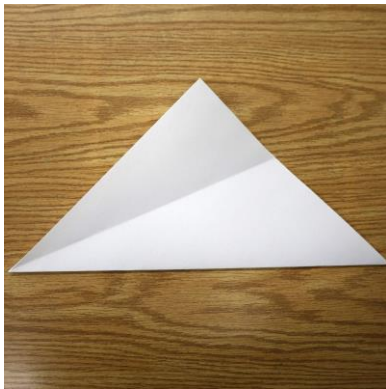
1) Lay your paper out in front of you on a diagonal.



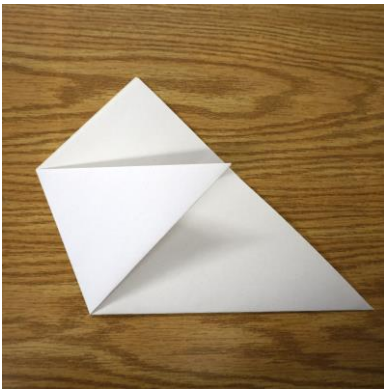
2) Fold the bottom corner up to meet the top.



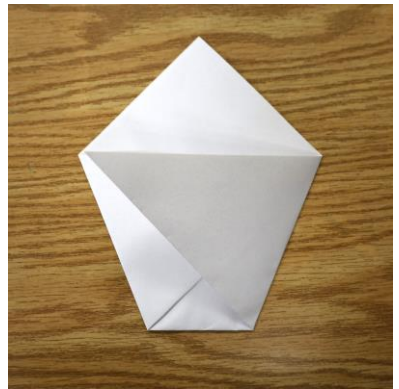
3) Fold the new top corner down to the bottom to create a diagonal crease line.



4) Unfold



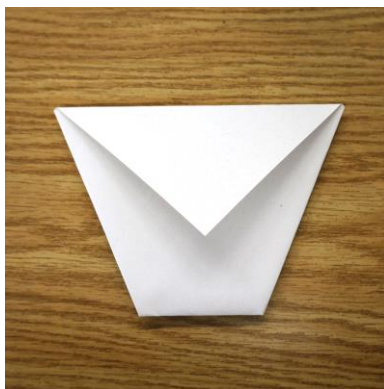
5) Fold the left bottom corner up to meet the crease line you just made.



6) Fold the right bottom corner over to meet the opposite side.



7) Fold the top flap down.

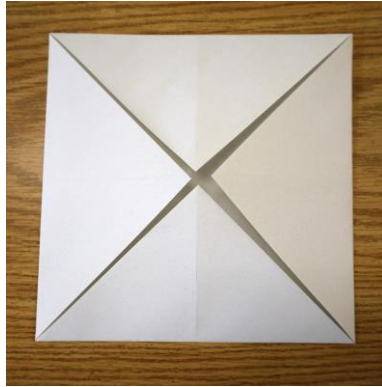


8) Flip the cup and fold the opposite side flap down. Done!

Standing Origami Vessel Instructions



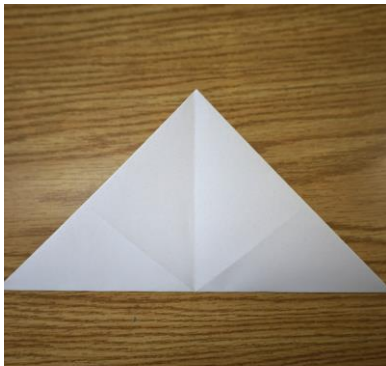
1) Fold the paper in half along both diagonals, crease well and unfold.



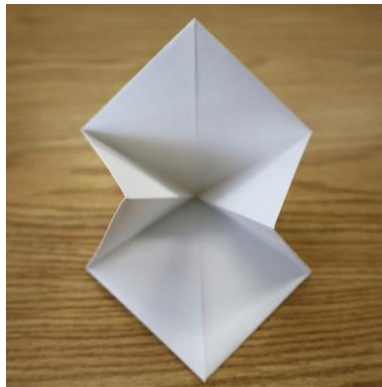
2) Fold all four corners to the center.



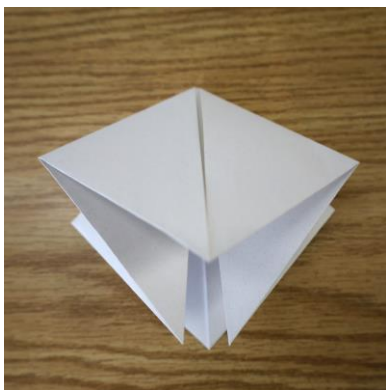
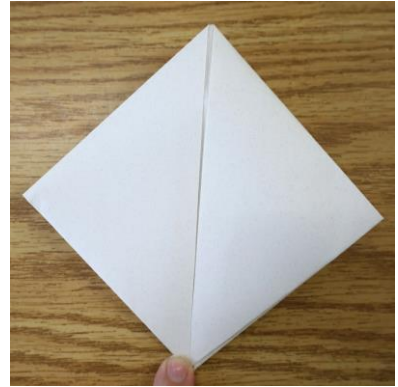
3) Create mountain folds on both flat sides making sure the openings are on the outside of your fold, unfold.



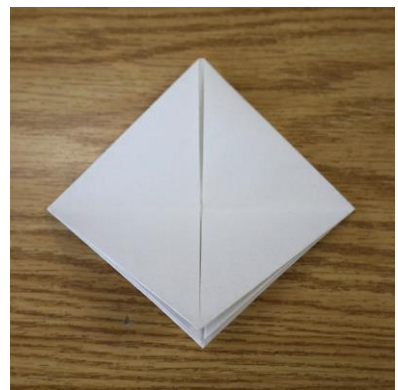
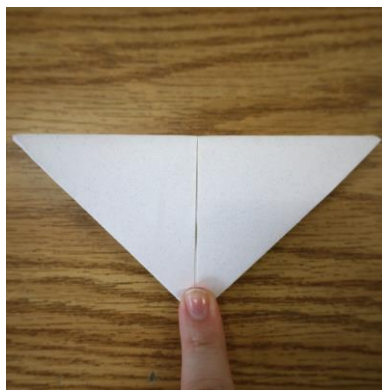
4) Create valley folds on both diagonals with openings on the inside of the folds, unfold.

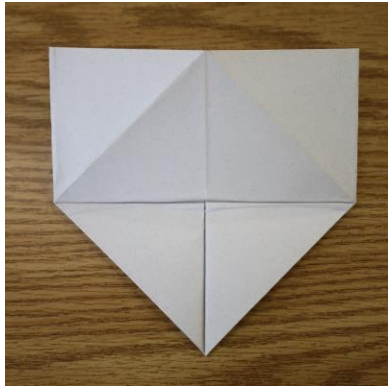


5) Collapse the paper along the folds to create a square base.

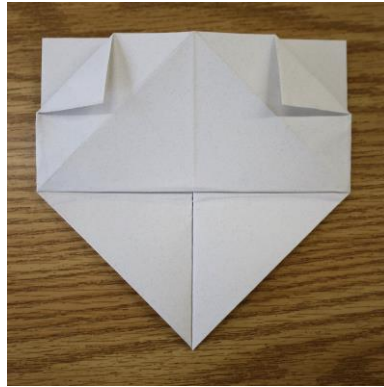


6) With open folds facing down, create a valley fold by bringing the top point down to meet the bottom point; crease well and unfold.

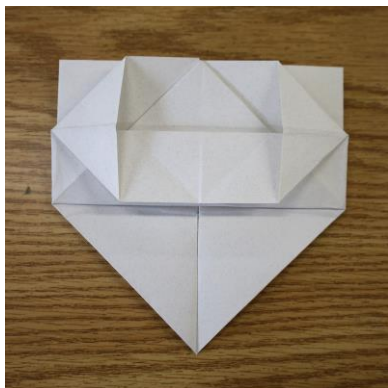
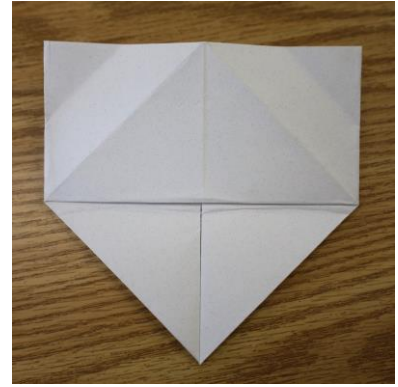




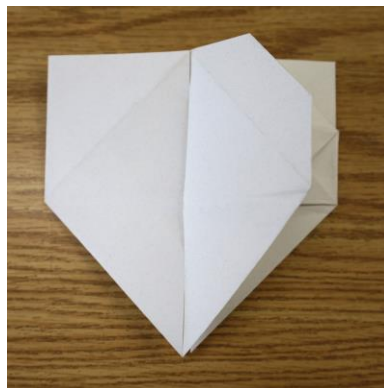
7) Open your fold and bring it up to the top, pressing down the sides. Flip and repeat steps 6 and 7 on opposite side.



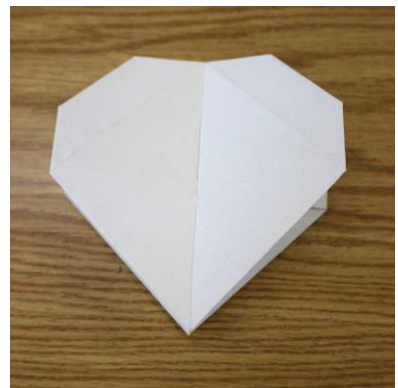
8) Make diagonal folds on the top right and left corners; crease well and unfold.



9) Open the paper and fold one side halfway down; press flat.



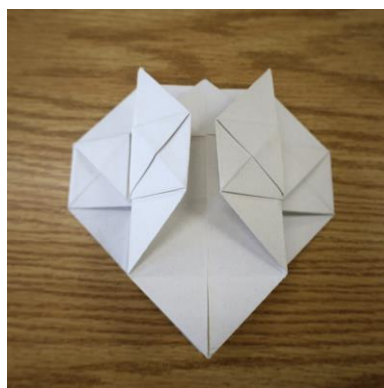
10) Fold the top flap from the left to the right.



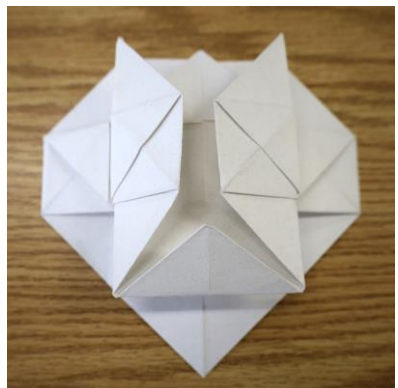
11) Flip over and repeat steps 6 to 10 on the opposite side.



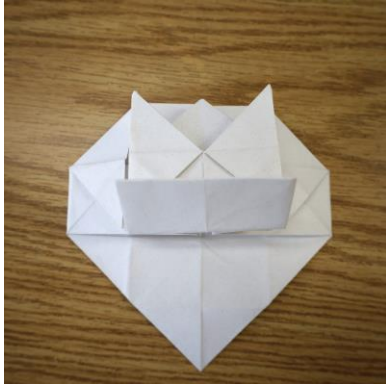
12) Make two diagonal folds from the top center.



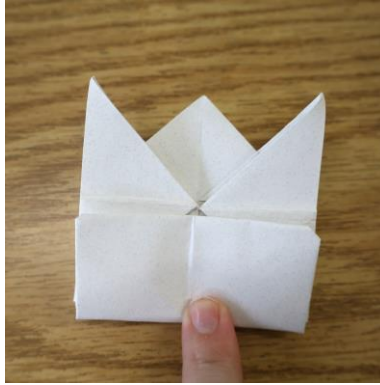
13) Fold both the right and left sides to the center.



14) Fold up the bottom tip.



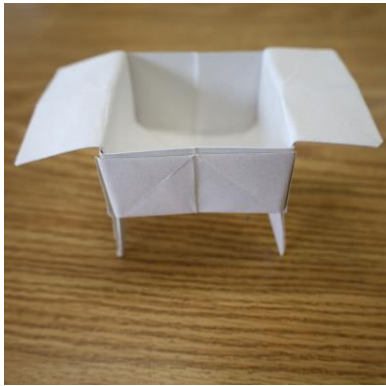
15) Fold the bottom flap up to align with the bottom of your triangles.



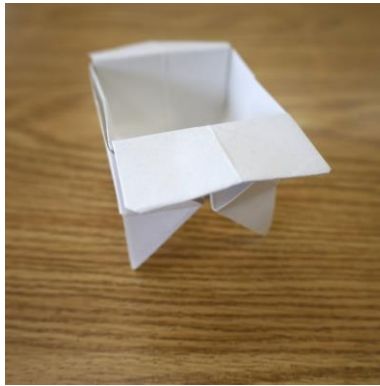
16) Flip over and repeat steps 12 to 15 on the opposite side.



17) From the top, pull the paper open from both sides to create your standing vessel.



18) Done!



*Optional: Tuck in the side flaps.

