

Family Hand Portraits

Take a series of family hand portraits that include gestures and objects!

Our hands are not just for making, working, and expression...they are works of art! Inspired by Brooklyn-based artist, LaKela Brown, whose sculptures include cultural objects and parts of the body.

Materials

Large piece of fabric or paper
Acrylic or heavy-bodied tempera paint
Nitrile gloves*
Found objects
Masking tape
Thumbtacks
Sponge brush or paintbrush
Camera phone



Instructions

1. Gather favorite objects and cut-out images that you would like to highlight in your portraits.
2. Position your fabric piece on a wall with thumbtacks or lay it out on a large table.
3. Use a brush or your hand to smooth paint evenly over one hand of each family member.
4. If using acrylic paint, put on nitrile gloves first!
5. Allow the paint to dry for about 3-5 minutes.
6. Tape or pin any images or objects to your fabric as desired.
7. Take photos of each other's hands in front of the fabric at rest, holding objects, or making gestures.

Go Further

Send your digital portraits to friends and family and/or print them to display at home!

Interested in making actual plaster molds and sculptures of objects...or your hands? Explore LaKela Brown's artwork at lakelabrown.com for inspiration, and check online for DIY plaster-making resources.

Share a photo of your portraits! Tag us on Instagram [@bcmkids](https://www.instagram.com/bcmkids) [#bcmmandyou](https://www.instagram.com/bcmmandyou)

