

# Light & Shadow Sculpture



activity 4

Children use found and recycled materials to create sculptures that interact with natural and artificial light sources to create shadows

# Materials



1 **Light Source:** flashlight, lamp, or phone light. On a sunny day, children can also do this activity using sunlight.

2 **Sculpture Base:** A piece of packaging styrofoam or something to hang the materials off, like a wooden dowel, or a clothes hanger with string.

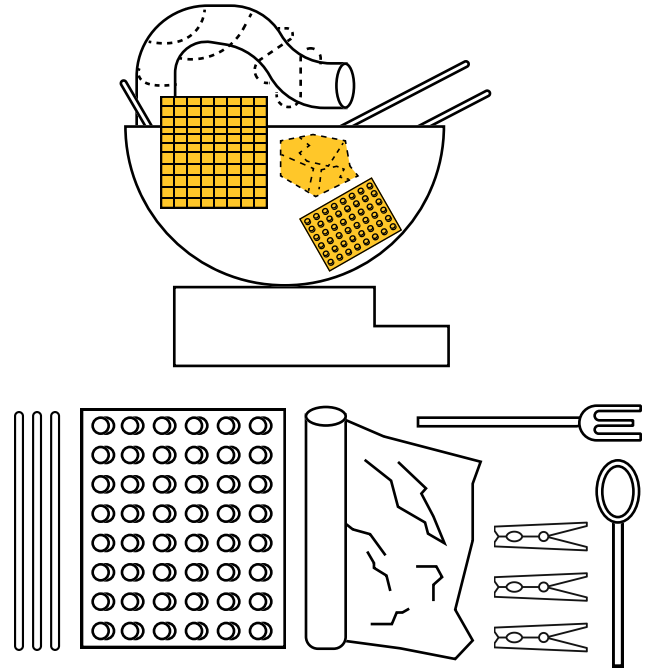
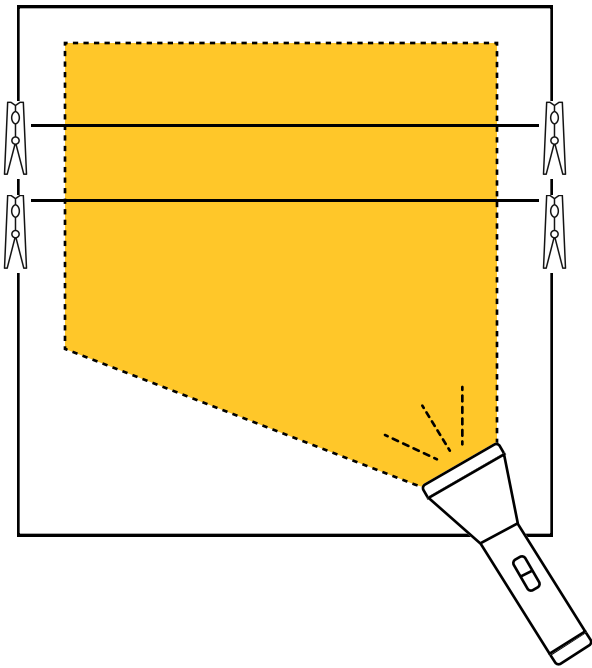
3 **Reflection Materials:** Aluminum, tin foil, cds

4 **Opaque Materials:** Figurines, cans, solid objects, fabric, kitchen utensils, and colanders.

5 **Transparent Materials:** Plastic packaging, bubble wrap, plastic transparencies

6 **Tools:** Clothespins, pipe cleaners, or floral wire

# Let's Get Ready!

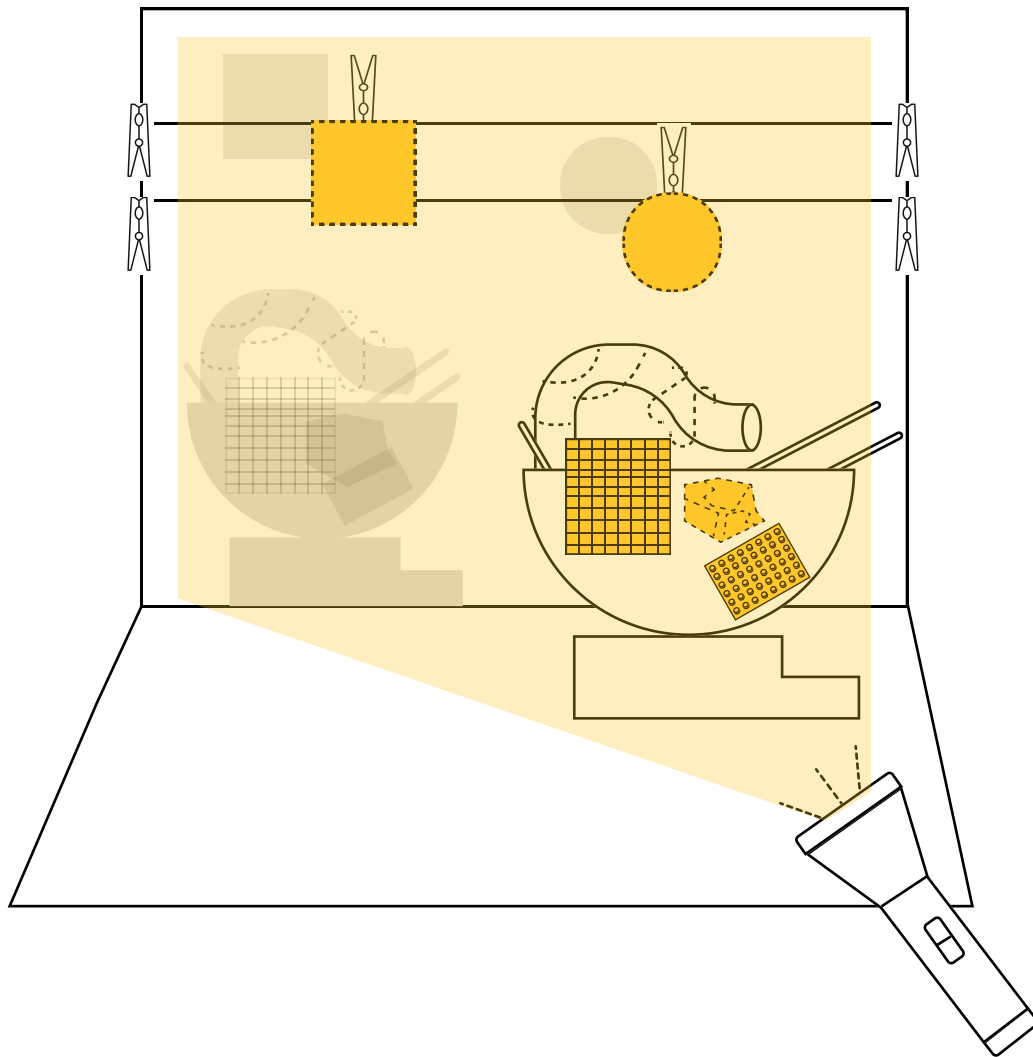


## Step 1

In a darkened area or room, set up a light source so it faces a blank white wall. Place a Sculpture Base like a piece of styrofoam or a clothes hanger between the light source and the wall.

## Step 2

Put the reflective, opaque, and transparent materials in baskets or containers near the Sculpture Base. Offer a range of different materials so that children can make selections that are comfortable for their hands and express their ideas.



### Step 3

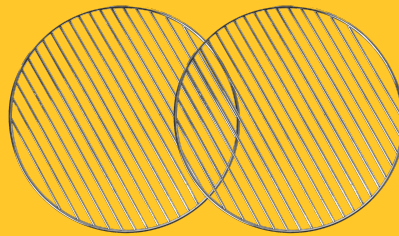
Introduce the activity by saying something along the lines of, ‘We have lots of different reflective, opaque, and transparent materials that you can use to build a sculpture with. We also have a light source that we can shine on our sculpture so it makes interesting shadows on the wall.’ If children show interest, you can test out some interactions between the materials and the light sources together. You can also show the pictures of Rashad Alakbarov’s Shadow Art:

*Rashad creates sculptures using found materials such as kitchen utensils, wire, and paper clips. He makes sure to have a strong light source like a flashlight or projector. What do you notice about Rashad’s artwork? What materials has he used to make shadows? Would you like to start making your own shadow sculpture?*

# Let's Play!



What materials will you add to our sculpture?

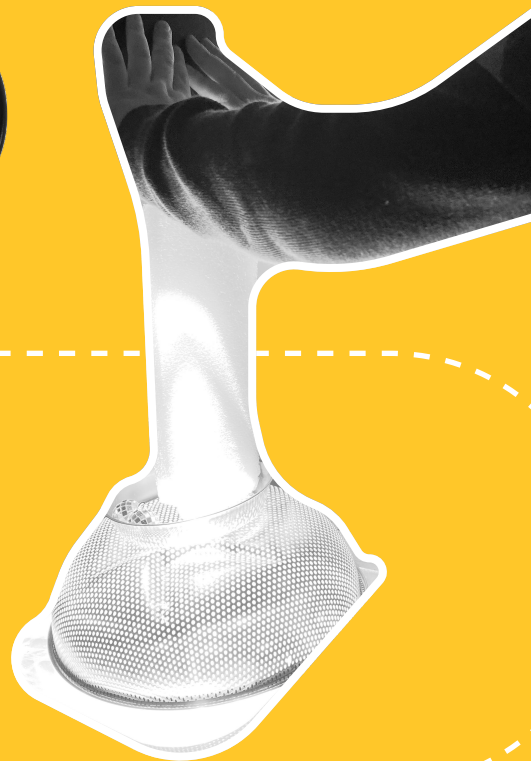


Is that material opaque, translucent, or transparent? How can you tell?



What happens when we move the light source to another position?

How can we make the shadows bigger/smaller?



How can you get help with that tricky part?



What does light do?

# Art Techniques



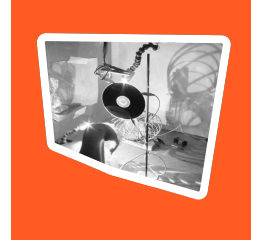
Reflecting



Refracting



Constructing



Balancing



Connecting



Shining

# Vocabulary

## Light source

something that shines light, like the sun, or a lamp

## Connect

to link, to join together

## Opaque

not letting any light through

## Shadow

a dark area made when light is blocked

## Translucent

letting some light through

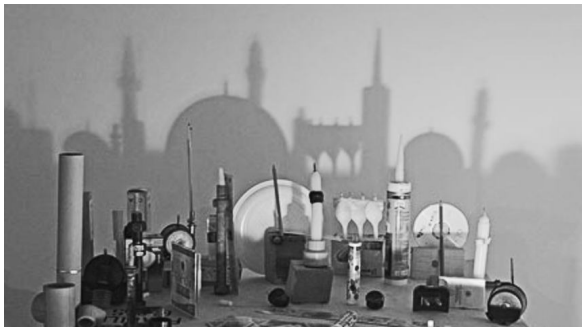
## Transparent

letting all light through

# Rashad Alakbarov

Rashad Alakbarov is an artist from Azerbaijan who loves to make artwork out of light. He creates sculptures using found materials such as kitchen utensils, wire, cans, and paper clips and then projects light onto them, casting unexpected projections and shadows on the wall.

Something interesting about his work is that when you look at the composition of objects, you cannot see anything significant yet when you look at the shadow, an intricate picture appears, often of cities, characters, and landscapes



Rashad Alakbarov, an Azerbaijan-based light artist.

