

## Illuminated Tissue Paper Panels



*Experimental Panel,*  
designed by John Piper  
and made by Patrick  
Reyntiens, c.1956  
(ELYGM:L2003.8)

One of our favourite stained glass panels at The Stained Glass Museum is a collaboration between two British artists, John Piper and Patrick Reyntiens. The experimental panel they made together is bold, a blaze of primary coloured glass held within a grid of rectangular black lead lines. We love how the colour gets more complicated the closer you look, revealing how each block is composed of many shades and layers. Reyntiens hand painted each piece of glass to add texture and depth to its colour, and to create softness and shadow within its frame. Light seems to dance through it.

Inspired by the  
Piper/Reyntiens glass, we  
used coloured tissue  
paper to create an  
abstract  
art work for our kitchen  
window!

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## What you'll need



1. Black paper
2. Scissors and/or craft knife
3. Pencil
4. Ruler
5. PVA glue (or another runny glue)
6. Pot
7. Brush
8. Tissue paper, ideally in different colours, but this project still works if you only have one colour of tissue paper.

## Making a Frame

You will need to begin with a rectangle of black paper. Using pencil and ruler, measure a border within your rectangle, about 2cm in from its outer edge. The inner rectangle you have drawn can now be cut away, either with scissors or a craft knife (an adult will need to help you if using a craft knife!). You will now have a rectangular frame, from which you can pop out a smaller solid rectangle.

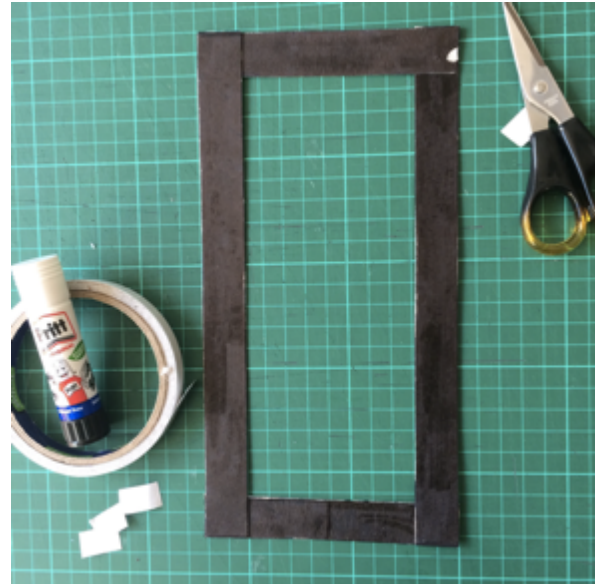
Repeat the frame making with each solid rectangle you cut away until you have several frames, each one slightly smaller than the last.



A tip if you don't have black paper...



... we also made frames from an empty cereal box. Use your pencil and ruler to measure out 2 long strips and 2 short strips of about 2cm width, then colour them black with paint or a marker pen.



Either glue or use double sided tape to join the cardboard strips together, forming a rectangular frame.

## Tissue



We sorted our tissue paper into groups of primary colours: reds, along with other warm shades like orange; blues, along with other cool colours like purple; yellows, along with other fresh colours like green.

Next we tore into the tissue, ripping it into smaller pieces, tearing long strips, scrunching it up and letting it crease... By handling the tissue you will create interesting edges and textures that will alter the visual effect when light passes through it. If you are making your panel with a single colour of tissue, it is especially important that you add texture to it.

Once we had enough tissue fragments to get going, we began sticking. Start at the corner of your frame and continue sticking one piece to the next from there. Runny glue, brushed on, works best.

When your tissue covers the whole space within your frame, it's time to set your panel aside and wait for the glue to dry...

Once your frame and tissue are completely dry, flip it over, hold it to the light and...



...you have a completed panel! Notice how new shades of colour form as the tissue overlaps, and how layers and textures create new shapes and edges.

You might find your panel has buckled during drying. If so, you can flatten it out again by placing it under books overnight, after which your panel is ready to stick to a window! We used a blob of blue tack in each corner of the frame to fix ours to the window.

### A beautiful window display

Because we made a few illuminated tissue paper panels, we were able to play around with arranging them into a grid, our black frames creating a bold structure for dancing, illuminated colour!

