

February 2014

## Found Objects Observations

Heidi Florio

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarship.claremont.edu/steam>



Part of the [Art Practice Commons](#), and the [Education Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Florio, Heidi (2014) "Found Objects Observations," *The STEAM Journal*: Vol. 1: Iss. 2, Article 31. DOI: 10.5642/steam.20140102.31

Available at: <https://scholarship.claremont.edu/steam/vol1/iss2/31>

© February 2014 by the author(s). This open access article is distributed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives License.

STEAM is a bi-annual journal published by the Claremont Colleges Library | ISSN 2327-2074 | <http://scholarship.claremont.edu/steam>

---

## Found Objects Observations

### Abstract

On Thursday 28th March, 2013 we had the launch event for the inaugural issue of The STEAM Journal! At the event each attendee was given a small colored clear cylindrical containers that was filled with small found objects (any combination of seeds, foil, thread, beads, sequins, miniature gears, parts of watches, small nails and other natural and synthetic materials). Individuals took these home as a gift from The STEAM Journal. We asked "What do you think/do with the found objects?" This project was open to anyone (those who attended, those who did not attend)..submissions about found objects were sent in and Heidi Florio's piece was chosen for this issue.

### Keywords

found objects, children, color, materials

### Creative Commons License



This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-Noncommercial-No Derivative Works 3.0 License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/3.0/).

## Found Objects Observations

*Heidi Florio*

In the space of about ten minutes, our objects took on many forms: a sail, a hook, a fur ball, a bed for fleas. I had arranged the found objects on three separate plates, but it didn't take long for the girls to start trading objects back and forth to create what they were imagining. Ave was immediately interested in "the soft things," in the cotton and the small make-up sponge. And then she noticed the cork, which was not made out of cork, but some sort of synthetic foam. She began to scrape and tear out the center of it with a small metal key she had acquired from her sister. "It takes a lot of strength, doesn't it?" she observed. "I'm going to make a hole through this!" Meanwhile, her older sister had poked a hole through the top of a small paper bag that was in her pile. She threaded the string through the new hole and put the metal key and a stamped souvenir penny inside. "A jingler. A cat toy!" Isla found a plastic sticker in her pile. "This is the shape of California!" She folded it into a small wad and then unfolded it. We noticed the creases and then she did the same to a paper museum ticket.



As we visit new places we are introduced to new materials and many iterations of familiar ones. We figure out what they are made out of and what they might have been made to do or what we can use them to create. Sometimes what we create is more art (crinkled plastic stickers) and other times it is primarily useful for a specific purpose (a cat toy). Our tinkering is play. It can often feel like wandering or it can be intentional, but it is always interesting and enlightening.