

# Imaginary Landscape

*From the FAM permanent collection*



Sally Curcio (American, b. 1971), *Candyland*, 2008, mixed media. Sinon Collection Fund, acquired in honor of FAM Trustee Nadine Martel, 2015.98



Detail of the technique

## **About the Artist**

Sally Curcio is a living, or contemporary, artist. Her studio is in western Massachusetts. She has exhibited her artworks in many museums and galleries, including the Fitchburg Art Museum.

Sally Curcio likes to make sculptures from all kinds of materials. For this sculpture she put tiny beads on straight pins. It took her a long time to create it.

For more pictures of her art, visit her website, [sallycurcio.com](http://sallycurcio.com).

## **Looking for Inspiration**

- Look at this sculpture closely. Which colors stand out the most?
- Is there anything about this sculpture that makes you think of its title, **Candyland**?
- Imagine if the artist had not put the clear plastic bubble over the sculpture; what effect does the bubble have?

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**Materials** Clay, paper clay, or plasticine; pipe cleaners, colorful plastic beads large enough to fit on the pipe cleaners, a clear plastic container with a lid, scissors.  
**Note:** This project can be done without the plastic container, but having a shallow lid from a cardboard box or a plastic container is helpful to contain the clay.

**Instructions** Make a landscape, cityscape, seascape, or fantasy land using Sally Curcio's method

Make your own imaginary landscape. It can be a real or a fantasy place.

- Turn the lid upside-down and add a 1/2" layer of clay, paper clay, or plasticine. Leave space between the clay and the edge of the lid so there is enough room to add the clear container on top.
- Think about what kind of landscape you want to make. Will you have hills, valleys, or a river? Will it be a city? Add more clay to create higher areas if you want them.
- Cut pipe cleaners into lengths no longer than the height of the plastic container.
- Thread beads onto the pipe cleaners, leaving about 1/2" bare at one end. At the other end, bend the pipe cleaner just enough to keep the beads from falling off. Stick the bare, straight end of the pipe cleaner into the clay. Try bending the pipe cleaner to make different shapes.
- Continue to add stacks of beads to make your landscape.
- When finished, put the upside-down container over it and attach it to the lid.

## Examples:



The example in the center is a soda bottle with the bottom cut off. It doesn't attach to the lid holding the clay, but the lid and the bottle could be glued to a sturdy paper plate, piece of cardboard, or a larger plastic lid.