



# Design Your Personal Cloak



*Painted Cloak (front)*, 1971, by Carlos Villa (American, 1936–2013). Airbrushed acrylic with feathers on unstretched canvas with taffeta and feathers lining. *San Francisco Museum of Modern Art*. Photograph by Joe McDonald.

Cloaks offer the wearer protection from the weather and can also be used to hide or cover up one’s identity (some are even “invisibility cloaks”!). But when worn as a form of self-expression, how might a cloak *reveal* something about the wearer?

During the 1970s, artist Carlos Villa created a series of cloaks and coats that reflect his exploration of his identity as a Filipino American. These artworks evoke non-Western ceremonial garments, such as Hawai’ian royal capelets and Samoan *tapa* cloths, as well as the Catholic robes he wore as an altar boy. The repeating spiral pattern in *Painted Cloak* (above) holds personal significance for Villa, as it suggested circular movement and action, connecting to his work as a community organizer.<sup>1</sup>

Using the provided art materials, design your own cloak that reflects your identity, influences, and ideals. What might your cloak reveal? What might still be “hidden” by it? How might it feel to wear it?

1. “A Circular Kind of Movement: A Conversation About the Works of Carlos Villa”: Mary Valledor & Sherwin Rio. *Friends Indeed*. February 5, 2021. [https://friendsindeed.art/news\\_events/a-circular-kind-of-movement](https://friendsindeed.art/news_events/a-circular-kind-of-movement).

ACTIVITY

# Design Your Personal Cloak

Use the provided art supplies to shape, color, and decorate your cloak as you wish! Have fun experimenting with the ways you might transform the paper: cut, tear, curl, twist, crimp, crumple, fold, fringe, hole-punch, collage, etc. Here is an example:

①



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