

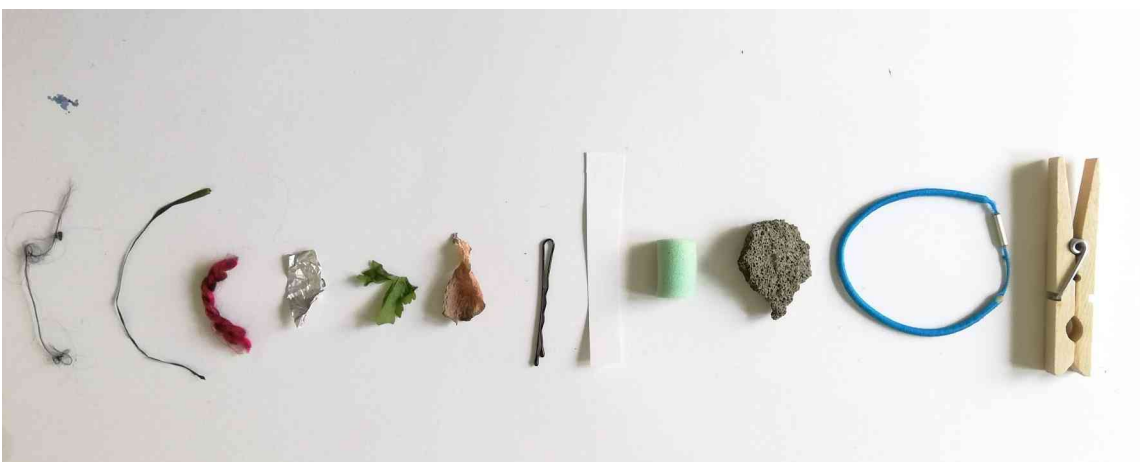
## Arte Povera Systems

Arte Povera literally means 'poor art' and referred to a group of Italian artists in the 1960s who explored unconventional and non-traditional 'everyday' materials such as ball point pens, soil, clothes, twigs and ideas. Alighiero Boetti (1940–1994) was a very important artist in the group. He was fascinated by ideas of chance, order and the systems of classification such as words, numbers, dates and games. This activity focuses on found everyday materials and forming systems to order and view them in different ways.

- 1) Recycle an egg box to use to help you collect materials. Search your home for small items. E.g Dust, loose threads, crumbs, hairband, stray lego etc.



- 2) Write down a list of what you've found.



3) Order all the items into the following categories.

- Size- small to big
- Similar shapes
- Usefulness
- Texture- soft to rough
- What other categories can you think of?



4) Try drawing around your found items to record their shape and make notes to keep a record.

**Top Tip:** Ask someone else to order the objects by category. Do you agree?

**Experiment:** How else could you record your findings about the items? What other ways of categorising could you use? Number and letter systems? Could you make a game from the items?

**Research:** Repeat the activity outside or in your home on a different day.