Colorful Collages

Featured Story:
Rebecca Emberley and Ed Emberley’s
The Itsy Bitsy Spider

Inspiration from WAM’s Collection

Manyeo

This is a mixed-media collage. Bold blue and magenta-pink colors are used for the background, with the person’s profile (side view of a face) in black on top. Smaller pieces of paper are placed on top to define the details of this portrait.

Untitled (Deity)

This collage is untitled, but it is also labeled a deity. Many deities from India—which is where K.G. Ramanujam is from—have animal features, such as Ganesha. This work is colorful, busy, and reminds me of Ganesha, the Indian elephant-headed god. A sculpture of Ganesha from the Museum’s collection is pictured to the right.

Bridal Spell

This is a large work - about 4 feet by 5 feet in dimension. Jess—the artist—used found images from magazines, printed photos, and more to create an image-filled imaginary landscape.
Creature Collage

Supplies

- Paper for sketch
- Pencil
- Eraser
- Paper for collage background
- Assorted paper for collaging: construction paper, colored paper, recycled paper, newspaper, magazines, etc.
- Scissors
- Glue or Glue stick

Create

1. Think of what creature you would like to create a collage of today as you gather materials for your project.
2. Draw a sketch or quick plan of what your creature will look like using pencil on your sketch paper.
3. Using your sketched plan, pick out the papers that will make up the big parts of your creature and cut or tear them into the shapes you need. Put these to the side for later - don’t glue them yet!
4. Next, work on the medium pieces of paper you need for your creature - cut or tear these apart, too! Put these to the side for later - don’t glue them yet!
5. Now, work on all the small pieces for your creature - tear and cut the paper to get it ready.
6. Gather all the large, medium, and small pieces of paper for your creature and--like a puzzle--start to test how they fit together. Do you like your arrangement? Want to change something? Go ahead! Once everything is how you want, glue it all together and then glue it to your background to finish your collage!
Fantasy Collage

Supplies

- Paper for sketch
- Pencil
- Eraser
- Paper for collage background
- Assorted paper for collaging
- Scissors
- Glue or glue stick
- Additional media of your choice: paint, colored pencils, oil pastels, charcoal, crayons, markers

Create

1. First, think about what a fantastic creature or place might look like. Then, draw out your sketch in pencil.
2. Using your sketched plan, pick out the papers that will make up your image and cut or tear them into the shapes you need.
3. Work from large pieces to small pieces as in the last lesson plan and put your paper pieces to the side as you go.
4. Gather all the large, medium, and small pieces of paper for your creature and, like a puzzle, start to test how they fit together. Do you like your arrangement? Want to change something? Go ahead! Once everything is how you want, glue it all together and glue it to your background to finish your collage!
5. Once your collage portion is finished, add more details to your artwork in the media of your choice; paint, colored pencils, oil pastels, charcoal, crayons, or markers.

Make Your Own Collage Papers

You can make great paper for collage using watercolors!

Supplies

- Watercolor paper, or thicker paper
- Watercolor paints
- Brush
- Water in cup
- Paper Towels or Rag

Create

1. Take out your supplies and swish, swirl, and splatter colors all across your paper.
2. Leave the papers to dry for a day before using them - you want them to be completely dry before cutting, tearing, or gluing.