

## Techniques for making paper collages

From Heloise Shilstat

Sketch your idea

Gather paper using rotogravure paper, for example Vogue, Bazaar - not Time etc

Photos of bottles are good for glass vases, flowing dresses for irises, hair for hay bales

Pressed petals and leaves, images from seed catalogs, etc can be used of course

Photos of rocks, leaves etc can be used of course

Outline subject on foamboard, thick cardboard, poster board, thick watercolor paper, etc

Cut pieces for the subject

Don't start with your "best" piece because you are sure to mess it up!

Use Elmer's school glue or Elmer's glue, spread thin with a soft but not floppy brush; a stiff brush won't work.

Use your finger or a toothpick for the glue if it helps but messy hands can be a problem.

When not working on the picture, even for five minutes, set a heavy piece of tempered glass or hard plastic over it, separating it from the work with parchment paper (which won't stick to the glued surface). **THIS IS IMPORTANT.**

Since you can see the collage through the glass you can note your progress.

When the subject is well under way, proceed with the background, tearing or cutting the paper as you choose.

Keep the color wheel in mind when choosing the background colors.

Keep all scraps until the picture is framed. Don't say I didn't tell you! I have scrounged through my recycle container for a scrap even after I took a picture to the framer.

Spray with acrylic spray for a uniform finish. I like satin finish best. Gloss makes it difficult to see the picture for the reflection.

Photograph the picture prior to framing.

Bring:

1. Cardboard, foamboard, heavy cardboard – without shiny surfaces because the glue doesn't adhere well. The size is up to you. No need to buy anything special.
2. Elmer's glue of some type. I will bring what I have and you can see which you prefer. I like something that is water soluble because I am pretty messy.
3. Heavy tempered glass or plastic as large as the picture you want to make. Don't bring regular glass, please.
4. Any magazine that has paper that appeals to you. I will bring magazines too and probably everyone will share.
5. Something to wipe your work and hands with. I use handiwipes.
6. A soft but not floppy watercolor brush – not a good one!
6. Scissors that you find easy to use. This is going to be like kindergarten.

I'll bring parchment paper.

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