

Free Paper Collage/Photo-Montage Art Class

By Joan C. Blackwell, Masters in Art Teaching

May 5th and May 12th at 6:00 pm-8

Robeson Art Guild

Paper Collage: This is any collage that is made using paper as a medium. There are various types of paper to use or a combination of different papers.

Popular paper types used are photos, magazines, newspapers, envelopes, design-printed paper, textured paper & colored cardboard. If a photograph is a subject of the composition, then it is called a **Photo-montage**.



It is best to think about a theme before you start your project. What do you want the concept to be? Do you want to make someone laugh, cry or wonder? Is there a cause you want to state? Will this artwork feature landscape or flowery designs? Will the emphasis combine parts of a human or animal form to create completely different forms? Will this be abstract or pop art style? Will you create a written message for the viewer or add forms to highlight the message?

Finally, will this be a gift or artwork to sell? By thinking about the overall design, you will be better prepared to start and complete your art project, allowing you to decide which pictures to cut out of magazines, books, or newspapers.

Step 1. Decide what the background will be. You can paint it a solid color, or cover it with tissue paper, cloth, napkins, purchased labels, embellishments, or ribbon. The possibilities are endless.

Step 2. Start cutting out pictures carefully. Decide where you want to place pictures then start gluing. Remember to brush the canvas with Mod Podge (MD) or glue before placing paper on the canvas or cardboard. The last step will be adding MD to the top to help seal any embellishments.

Step 3. Try to cover the entire canvas with forms, paint, or embellishments. When you think you are done with this project, take a moment to study the overall compensation, and decide what else can be done to enhance this project?

Step 4. Suggestions: Could you use more details by adding texture with embellishments, artificial flowers, beads, and marbles? Do you want to add symbols, painted forms, flowers, or use a template? There are many templates that can be used to add further details. For instance: if you chose a picture of a beautiful lady's face, you could add flowers for the hair.

If you chose to feature a large animal, you could add various parts of different animals creating a completely different form. If you wanted to create a landscape, you might choose to paint the sky in unusual colors creating your own world, such as Vincent Van Gogh's famous *Starry Night* painting, with circular stars.

The project is about stepping outside your comfort zone and experimenting with different textures, styles and images. Have fun and know I am here to help you! So, let's get started.

