

Collage/Photomontage Composition Art Workshop
by Joan Blackwell

Today we are creating a collage/photomontage composition. A **collage** is a piece of art made by sticking various materials such as photographs and pieces of paper or fabric onto a backing. Making a collage from photographs, or parts of photographs, is called **photomontage**. The process and result will be exciting repurpose of paper images from magazines. Other sources of forms may be acquired from newspapers, books, cereal boxes, online images, or purchased images to create artistic compositions. The technique is referred to by professionals as **compositing**. Composition in art is how different elements of an artwork are combined. This refers to the key subjects of the artwork and how they are arranged about each other. Often adding visual interest is created with stencils, textured mediums, and paint.

Process: Start by selecting the images you want to use to create your art story. Carefully cut images out with scissors. Arrange images on canvas to help you decide the overall theme and interesting composition. Decide if you want to add a painted background or add embellishments. Examples may include beads, ribbons, artificial flowers, buttons, stamps, stencils. or written motivational sayings). A 3D collage is the art of putting altogether three-dimensional objects such as rocks, beads, ribbons, marbles, buttons, coins, to form a new whole or a new object. d objects.

After deciding where you want to place the images, brush a small even amount of Mod Podge on the canvas where you will be placing the image. Then add mod podge gently on the back of the image. Hint: Use a wide brush. A little amount goes a long way. Cover in a light coat. Place on the canvas and gently press down. Then add another coat of Mod Podge on top of the images. If air bubbles or wrinkles show up, gently press out with an old credit card or roller. We are using magazines to find images donated by Ms. Nila Chamberlain. Thanks so much!

Examples of Collage & Photomontage compositions by Joan C. Blackwell



Native American for Black Lives Matter (BLM) By Joan C. Blackwell



Dreams by Joan C. Blackwell

Artist Statement
Joan C. Blackwell

My visions on canvas tend to document ongoing subconscious, conscious and spiritual journeys. I try to leave others feeling better after viewing my art and after meeting with them to encourage unity. My maternal grandparents, Rev. Martin Luther Lowry, Sr., and wife, Cammie (Locklear) Lowry were educators, farmers, civic-minded, and Lumbee Tribe members. They greatly influenced my scholarly studies, appreciation of all cultures, and the need to keep my mind and hands busy to maintain balance in life. Their lifestyle taught me fruits of labor by teaching me how to grow flowers, vegetables, preserve foods, appreciation of Mother Nature, respect towards all two and four-legged animals, and a strong foundation in faith, hope, and charity.

As a perennial learner and researcher of various cultures, many of my paintings reveal fantastical environments that are rich in detail, color, and spontaneous in form. At times I am deeply affected by catastrophic events, such as the murders of innocent victims, and will stop what I am doing to show my feelings on canvass to honor the victims. Those tragedies projected on canvass include Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW) Men and children, the Charleston church massacre, the murder of George Floyd, military female Native American warriors, and the wars America was involved with during my lifetime and before. I am the mother of an Army pilot and daughter. Through them, I have many grandchildren. Unfortunately, they all live out of state, due to their professional lifestyles. To avoid the voids of missing them, I adopt neighbors' children to teach them art or share meals. times. Accomplishments include master's in art teaching (UNCP) 2019, career background includes Department of Defense contractor, classified management analyst. Assignments included positions at the State Department, Washington, D.C., and various military installations.

Today my passions include private art lessons at my home, focus on creating new art, marketing my art, sharing art techniques and expertise, volunteer work for the Lumbee Tribe community, learning new art techniques, growing flowers, participating in art show events, sharing with others, walking my dog Chica, travel, and placing God and family at the top of my lists.

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