



Smithsonian Associates

Altered Books: Drawing and Painting in Collage and Mixed-Media

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Have a book to alter/make your own? Think about what you might want to work with: Children's board book, Hardback book- old textbook, dictionary, novel? We'll look at sample art and get inspired.

Work from still life, photos, or images provided by the instructor with an emphasis on objects of nature, integrating the drawings into mixed media artwork. We will be sketching (No experience necessary. I will give you guidance, and there's more to the class than drawing.)

Working on a project or have thoughts about starting a mixed media artwork? I'm happy to offer suggestions while sharing techniques. If you have questions about any of the supplies, please contact me: marcieplusart@gmail.com

Improvise with supplies you may have at home.

- A book or several to work with and begin to alter
- Old book pages, magazines or junk mail (to cut up and redact/cross out/circle)
- Oil pastels (inexpensive or student grade is fine, such as Sakura Cray-Pas Junior Artist Oil Pastels, but NOT Artist's Loft brand)
- Colored pencils
- Drawing pencil or any pencil
- Ballpoint pen or ink
- Paper: options: Mixed media paper 9" x 12" (preferred) , cover stock, watercolor paper or drawing paper- or Junk Mail
- Watercolor pan set with brush (student, inexpensive)
- Acrylic paint*, brushes, palette (could be large plastic food carry out containers)
- Container for water (for example: reusing deli/food container)
- **Student grade acrylics is fine- basic colors plus black and white. Additional colors if you desire. Suggestions include Dick Blick studio acrylics, Amsterdam Standard Series Acrylics or Liquitex Basics Acrylic Colors**
- Glue stick (such as Elmer's, Avery, UHU etc.)
- Old magazines, books, newspapers, old calendars, junk mail.
- Eraser
- Mat board or cardboard scraps
- Mat board or surface to cut on

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- paper clip
Miscellaneous papers (scraps- think color, patterns, old book pages, food wrapping, etc.)
Xacto knife, blades
- Ruler
- Scissors
- Clear contact paper, or clear packing tape.
- Old photographs, photocopies, postcards (see my letter) (for

Additional OPTIONAL items-

- YES glue
- Sandpaper
- Vaseline
- Candle (wax)
- Gelatin plate
- Bubble wrap/cushion Amazon mailing package
- Transparencies or clear plastic sheets

Existing artwork (recycle your old drawings, paintings, prints, etc.) *OR anything that you're thinking of working with (REPURPOSING ITEMS, ETC.*

Old photographs, photocopies, postcards

If using existing art - Suggestions (depending on your background, preference in media, etc.) are drawings in ink or pencil; watercolor; photographs, prints on paper. You could also use photocopies (on regular copy paper or cover stock. Laser copies for photo transfer and black copies work best.)

This is from a list I've given out to students (adults and children)

Here are some suggestions for items to use in collage/mixed media art - do not limit yourself to this list! It is best to have MORE items than you need to make choices of what to include in your collages!

Below is a list of miscellaneous items.

Textures you might find for making prints:

- *Packaging materials, bubble wrap, corrugated cardboard, Cardboard coffee protectors (Starbucks, etc), Old shoes, basket, leaves*

Found objects & small items from home, or nature: Items that "catch your eye" (shiny, colorful, or drab) - Items with texture (not flat, but having ridges)

Bling—broken jewelry, orphaned earrings, game pieces, etc

- Fabric scraps, (old clothes), trim, String or ribbon
- Bottle caps
- (Clean) candy or gum wrappers

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- Postcards or maps
Twigs, leaves, or dried flowers
- Postage stamps (used)
- Old medals from pets
- Small vacation souvenirs (Used train tickets, airline, bus passes, transfers)
- Old workplace, or home memorabilia
- Key chains or magnets of miniature objects, icons
- (Stray) buttons, game pieces, scrabble letters, domino, chess pieces
- Sea shells
Decals, stickers, labels
- Old magazines
Beads
Fabric, Lace, sewing notions