



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. No experience required! just plan to experiment, take chances, have fun. **Wear something you don't mind getting paint on.***

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. I.E. Children's board books, an old novel.
- Old book pages, magazines, or junk mail (to cut up and redact/cross out/circle)
- 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)
 - * **Optional-** *The Caran d'Ache Neocolor II are water soluble and with water on your brush become watercolors, so may not be necessary to purchase watercolor set if you have Caran d'Ache Neocolor II. See under OPTIONAL items, along with other water-soluble options.*
- 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.)
- Eraser
- Mat board or cardboard scraps
- Mat board or surface to cut on
- Miscellaneous papers (scraps- think color, patterns, old book pages, food wrapping, etc.)

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- Ruler
- Scissors
- Clear contact paper, or clear packing tape.
- Old photographs, photocopies, postcards
- old drawings, paintings, prints, etc.

Additional OPTIONAL items-

- Caran d'Ache Neocolor II Aquarelle Artists' Pastels and Sets.
(Either small set or purchase individual colors you enjoy-plus White, Gold, Gray, Black.)
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- Water-soluble graphite (ex. Lyra Graphite Crayons 6B)
- Viarco, Art Graf (ArtGraf Viarco Pigmented Tailor Chalk and Sets)
- Stabilo Woody 3 in 1 Pencils and Sets
- China marker (black, red)
- YES glue
- Sandpaper
- Vaseline
- Candle (wax)
- Xacto knife, blades
- Gelatin plate
- Bubble wrap/cushion Amazon mailing package
- Transparencies or clear plastic sheets

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
- Postcards or maps
Twigs, leaves, or dried flowers

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- 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