

Patti Mollica Workshop at Hudson River Valley Art Workshops May, 2020

Build a Painting with Collage and Mixed Media

- Surfaces to work on

Bring heavy watercolor or printmaking paper 140 LB or 300 LB Cold Press -which is more durable and warps less. Bring enough to accomodate your faster or slower work pace. Fabriano Artistico is good quality. I buy 22x30" sheets of 300 lb. and cut it to the size I want. Strathmore Bristol Board 100 lb is a less expensive alternative and you can buy it in pads. (It warps a little)

- Reference images, photos or drawings of the subject matter you are interested in translating into painterly collages,
i.e. still life images, landscapes, animals, nature, food and cooking, plants, fruit/vegetables, gardens, photos from trips, etc.

- Collage papers

If you have done in collage in the past, bring some of your stash of collage papers - the bits and pieces of colored papers you've created or saved

- Creating collage elements

When creating my own colored paper collage elements rather than paper from magazines or other sources, I use Strathmore 16x20" 50lb sketch pad paper. Its thin and tears/glues down well. A easy cheaper alternative is regular white copy paper.

Another great very thin paper is dry waxed deli wrap paper, its like tissue paper but stronger and semi-transparent if you are using transparent colors. Here's what I use <https://www.amazon.com/Marcal-Interfolded-Paper-Master-Sheets/dp/B07GNTR8P2>

- Acrylics / Watercolors / watercolor inks

Bring an assortment of acrylics or water based colors that you like. (bring at least some reds, yellows and blues, plus White and Black) Heavy body or fluid viscosity is OK. Bring any of your favorite colors too. Oils is not a suitable paint for collaging.

- Brushes

bring synthetic brushes in whatever sizes and shapes you normally paint in. They do not have to be good quality. For glueing, i use a stiff flat cheap nylon brush, about 1/2" in diameter. Soft watercolor brushes don't work as well for glueing.

- Materials as collage elements:

bring an assortment of imagery that you like to be cut up and pasted, i.e.: newspapers, magazines, ("Real Simple" magazine has nice solid colored images and backgrounds) handmade papers, vintage images, music sheets, vintage ledger paper with cursive writing, royalty free images, old line engravings and ephemera, photocopies of old paintings, gift or wrapping paper scraps that have good colors or patterns on them, colored tissue paper scraps, colored papers, etc

(My preference is for papers that are on the “thin” side - I find heavy colored construction paper too bulky)

- **Inspirational samples**

Bring samples of collages created by other artists that you like and can refer to for creative inspiration

- small jar of soft gel matte for glueing (I use Golden)

- **Tape** - to position your collage elements before gluing

- **Scissors and exacto knife** for cutting papers

- Old credit cards or hotel cards for spreading paint and glue

- Gesso provides a good surface for paint and glue

- **Palette Paper** to mix colors or white Freezer paper

- **Pencil and eraser** - for sketching out your composition

- **Paper towels**

- **Water Container**

*I will be giving a demonstration on techniques using various mixed media for creating your own collage elements. Bring all, some or none of the items listed according to your preferences. I have them listed as “optional”, however various mixed media and mark-making tools can add a lot of interesting variety to your artwork. Some people keep it very simple and only bring magazines cut up and use as their paper collage elements. Thats fine too, do what works for you.

Optional Supplies and Media :

- stencils - numbers, letters, decorative or geometric shapes etc

- cosmetic sponges or foam brush for stenciling

- stamps - items that make interesting patterns, shapes and textures when imprinted i.e. doilies, bubble wrap, rubber stamps, etc.

- sticky backed “fun foam” - to create and cut out your own stamps (Michaels or any craft store)

- foam core board or illustration/ card board to mount your handmade stamps on

- old credit cards for spreading paint and glue

- water-soluble crayons (Caran d'ache Neocolor II are my fav) / Oil Pastels / Conte crayons

- regular pastels

- brayer or small roller (also good for pressing down glued collage elements so they dry flat)

- palette knife for mixing colors

- Stamp pad - black or other colors

- tracing paper - good for creating text and captions, then glueing on. The paper dries semi-transparent
- thin markers for lettering or captions
- sharpie pen or “Gelli Roll” penpointed calligraphy pen and ink - for adding fine black or white line art to your collage
- small spray bottle_atomizer (drug store)
- 2” wide (min.) clear shipping/packing tape. This can be used to make simple photo image transfers using b/w or color laser (not inkjet) photocopies from kinkos or staples
- markers, Paint pens (I like POSCA paint markers, also Liquitex has some good colors too)
- Clear coating on your final collage - I use Golden Isolation Coat Gloss. It puts a nice glossy finish over my artwork

PLUS: any media or tool you like to use - bring it on! - we'll share techniques and tools!