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Collage: A Brief History and How to

Step 1: Use ELMO to show images below

- This should take about 15 minutes
- It will show the students several examples of abstract collage
- At the end of this PDF will be the images and a guide for how to talk about the images if you choose to do so.

Step 2: Talk about the materials

- You can use many different materials but for this workshop we will use colored construction paper, crayons, and glue.
- Paint, markers and scrap fabric would make good additions
- You can also take the students on a short walk around the school to find materials (example: leaves, grass, sticks, scrap paper)
- The base of the collage ideally should be sturdy paper, canvas, or cardboard, etc.. but you can also use another piece of construction paper.

Step 3: Talk about safety

- Make sure students know how to use the scissors safely (no pointing at others)
- Depending on the age group, make sure the students know not to paint on themselves, or in the worst-case scenario, eat the materials.

Step 4: Start making the collages

- Walk around the room to help them get started
- Use the call and response method to review some of the images you went over in the PowerPoint. Reference the images and get the students talking about what they liked and didn't like.
- Walk around the room and talk to students in small groups saying things like, "What kind of collage are you making?"

Step 5: Clean up (Should take about 10 minutes)

The remainder of the PDF are images and notes.



Here is your basic color wheel.

- cool colors are green, blue, and purple
- warm colors are red, orange, and yellow



Complimentary colors are the colors opposite of each other on the color wheel

- Red's complimentary color is green
- Using complimentary colors is a good way to make your collage visually interesting



These are examples of analogous colors. - analogous colors are sets of colors that are next to each other on the color wheel



- Simple shapes and colors make great compositions



Here are several collages hung together.



Raymond Hains – French artist (1926-2005)



Raymond Hains

This collage and the next one show what happens when you tear paper as a way to make your shapes



Francois Dufrene

Francois Dufrene

Robert Rauschenberg

This collage uses many colors



Robert Motherwell used paint and paper for his collages - You might not be using paint but if the students don't want to use magazines they could create a similar effect by using construction paper



More Robert Motherwell

- This is an example of a monochrome
- A monochrome is an image that uses shades of mostly the same color
- Maybe a student wants to make a collage using only their favorite color

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Here he only uses two colors on top of one. The base is a white piece of paper and then he uses tan and black to go on top.





These are almost complimentary colors. Maybe quiz the students and see if anyone can remember what blue's complimentary color is.



Robert Motherwell

Lastly, ask the students if they have any questions and if you want, review some of the previous slides. You will probably just want to get started so have fun and enjoy!

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