

Julie Diane Sadowski MFA Visual Arts

Cubist Collage Portrait

Cubist Collage Portrait is an exercise based on one of the most important movements in visual arts called Cubism, in which artists disassembled their subjects into basic shapes and rearranged them.

To execute this exercise you will need four things:

- portrait photograph printed out on a 8.5 in x11in sheet of paper
- blank white sheet of 9in x 12in construction paper
- scissors
- glue stick

PART 1

You will start with cutting up your portrait print into geometrical shapes (around 20 shapes for best results). Consider triangles, squares or made up shapes. Which do you prefer, or maybe you would like to work with all of them.

PART 2

Next, without glueing your shapes down first, arrange your shapes onto construction paper until you get the results you like for your collage. Play with your shapes and think whether you want your collage to be more abstract, or stay representational of the original image.

PART 3

Now you will need your glue stick, so you can start glueing down your shapes (one by one) onto your sheet of construction paper.

Things to consider during and after this exercise:

How much information is needed in a photographic image to still recognize a subject?

Can you still recognize a person in your collage, after you have disassembled it, or did it become completely abstract?

Is it more exciting when the person in your collage is still recognizable or when it becomes abstracted to the point when you can no longer recognize the person?

How does different geometrical shapes make you feel?

Examples of before and after:

