

Cutting Into Color: Exploring Still Life through Collage

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Concord Center for the Visual Arts

Fridays, 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm

January 6 - February 10, 2023

6 weeks

Materials List

Collage papers: We'll be working primarily in colored paper. There are a number of options for colored paper:

1. The most economical colored paper is kids' construction paper. Any assortment of colors from any brand will work just fine, but I like Pacon Tru-Ray Construction paper because the colors are saturated and tend to fade less than other brands. Two of the 50-sheet assortment packs should be plenty for the class (I will always have extra construction paper on hand). They also come in an 18" x 24" size that will allow you to work quite large. If you'd like to purchase some, here is a link to the Pacon page on Blick:

<https://www.dickblick.com/products/pacon-tru-ray-construction-paper/>.

I love the idea of using construction paper for this class because it is less precious than the materials listed below. Less precious means less fear and less fear usually means more exciting and more experimental work. That said, even the best construction paper is prone to fading in sunlight. So if that's a concern, read on.

2. In the "more archival, but pricier than construction paper" category is Canson's Mi-Teintes papers, which come in a beautiful array of colors. For about \$25, you can purchase ten 19" x 25" sheets in assorted colors:

<https://www.dickblick.com/products/canson-mi-teintes-assorted-color-packs/>

3. In the “even more pricey” category is Color-Aid paper. Initially developed as a backdrop for photographers, Color-Aid was embraced by Josef Albers for his color theory classes. It has a beautiful, velvety finish and feels substantial (almost too beautiful to cut). Unfortunately, it has a price to match its beauty: about \$100 for a set of 220 colors in 6” x 9” size:
<https://www.dickblick.com/products/color-aid-papers/> Sometimes you can score a slightly used set on eBay. It’s gorgeous stuff and I’ve used it in my own collages, but it is definitely not necessary for this class (but put it on your birthday wish list)!
4. Hand-painted papers are a nice option because you can create papers in the exact colors you want and the color will not be fleeting. If you go this route, I advise buying a ream of copy paper or cardstock from an office supplies store and painting sheets with acrylic paint (or acrylic gouache, gouache or watercolor). When dry, stack them under a heavy book to flatten them.
5. Colored scrapbook paper: <https://tinyurl.com/34h84zjm>
6. Colored mulberry paper: <https://tinyurl.com/33c77a3a>
7. Keep your eyes open for alternative, possibly free options as well, such as found, colored paper (Francis Davison, a collage artist we’ll look at in class, used found colored papers exclusively), fabric that has minimal or no pattern, paint swatches from the hardware store.

Although we’ll be working primarily with colored paper because it emphasizes the shape of cut pieces, you should feel free to bring in some patterned papers if you would like. These can be purchased, found, or made. Abandoned or unsuccessful paintings, drawings, and prints make great collage papers.

Cardboard: We will do some exercises in which your collage material is cardboard. Any cardboard from the recycling bin will do and I will bring

some in as well. You won't need it for the first class. I'll email you a week before you need to bring some in.

Scissors: You'll need one pair that is good for cutting paper and one pair that is good for cutting cardboard. For cardboard, I recommend [Fiskars PowerCut Softgrip Shears](#).

Glue: You'll need glue for adhering paper to paper (e.g., Elmer's glue, PVA adhesive, matte medium, or YES! paste). If you are or think you are going to be an artist who works in collage often, I recommend <https://www.talasonline.com/Jade-403>. It's similar to PVA adhesives you get at the art store, but more economical in larger quantities. Just don't order it if you think it's going to be delivered and then remain on your front porch in below-freezing temps for any length of time as the cold will ruin its adhesion properties. For gluing cardboard to cardboard, a glue gun works best. Glue guns are inexpensive; \$10 to \$15 should buy you a great glue gun and extra glue sticks for it.

Paint: When we make cardboard collages, you will need water-based paint. I recommend acrylics, tempera, or acrylic gouache. You can bring whichever colors you like, but it would be nice to have at least the primaries plus white. You should also bring brushes, a plastic container for water, disposable palette paper (I use Reynolds freezer paper), and some masking tape for taping it to the table. You will not need painting supplies for the first class (unless you're planning on painting some paper that night for cut-paper collages). I will email you the week before you need to bring in paint.

Paper: Bring paper for use as a substrate for your collages. One pad is enough. A pad that is 11" x 14" or so is a nice happy medium for exercises, but if you'd like to go smaller or bigger, that's fine too. I like using paper with a bit of substance to it, such as bristol board, cardstock, thin cardboard or watercolor paper.

Miscellaneous extras: I like to apply my glue with a brush (the size of the brush depends upon the size of the cut paper I'm working with). I also always have paper towels and a small container of water on hand to deal with any glue that oozes out from under the paper (although some artists embrace that aesthetic!). There are always paper towels in the studio and usually some containers, but if you can remember, it's good to bring in your own small plastic container.