

Collage and Book Making

Collage is a quick and easy way to create an image. You can include materials such as photographs, letters, newspapers, or other personal documents to provide added meaning. Collages can be made in memoriam or to record important events or ideas. Some artists who were making work about the Holocaust chose to work in collage so that they could incorporate materials that were relevant to the events, for example, Dresner's book pages in 'The Ghost Town'.



Shmuel Dresner, 'The Ghost Town', paper and book pages on paper, 1982.



Arnold Daghani, 'New Vases for Old', watercolour & collage, 1980.

You will need

A3 Thick Cardboard (for base)

Photographs/letters/personal objects

Papers: sugar; plain (copier); wall; wrapping; coloured/craft; tissue; newspapers/magazines

Fabric, ribbons, buttons, needles & thread

Scissors, pencils, rubbers, rulers

PVA and glue-sticks

Pastels, charcoals, coloured pencils/pens

Embellishments, such as stickers, shells, 'found objects'.

Memory Landscapes

Method

Use the cardboard as a starting 'base'. Draw a guideline on this if necessary – nothing too detailed as the papers will cover it.

Select and cut out images, shapes, and colours from the materials available.

Arrange them on the base; stick them down when you are satisfied with the result. Use glue-sticks for paper materials and PVA for heavier materials, such as fabric, wallpaper, shells, etc.

For more detail and variety of colour and texture, work into the finished collaged surface with drawing materials – or even sew into them.

Select images, shapes, and colours that remind you of places you have lived or visited in the past.

On the cardboard base, draw a general outline of a landscape. This could be:



A rural landscape

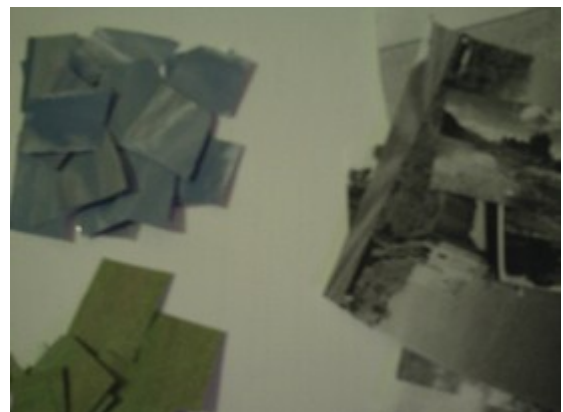
An urban or city scene

Or maybe an imaginary setting as if from dreams or memory



TIP 1

Group materials of the same colour together.





Cut and arrange the images, shapes, and colours to fit in your landscape.

You could use real photos from your past, or of your friends and family today to illustrate your personal story.

If you don't want to cut up your original photos – use photocopies of them instead.

You can use whole photos to fill the largest spaces. You can also colour over the photocopies to add a further 'mixed media' layer.



Think about the significance of the types of paper that you use. You could use old books, newspapers, magazines, old maps, music sheets, photographs, old tickets or programmes, receipts, packaging, stamps....

This picture was made using mixed papers, old photographs which were photocopied and paint and ink. It provides an insight into the life of the artist as a young girl.

Collage can be used to portray the past and the future

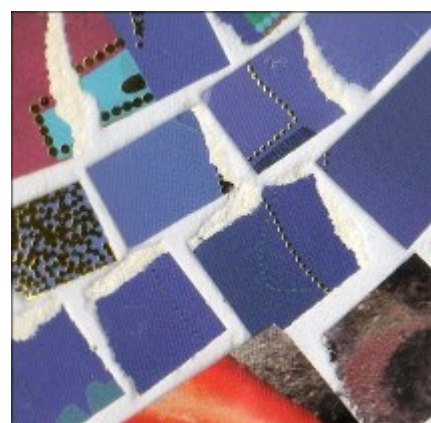
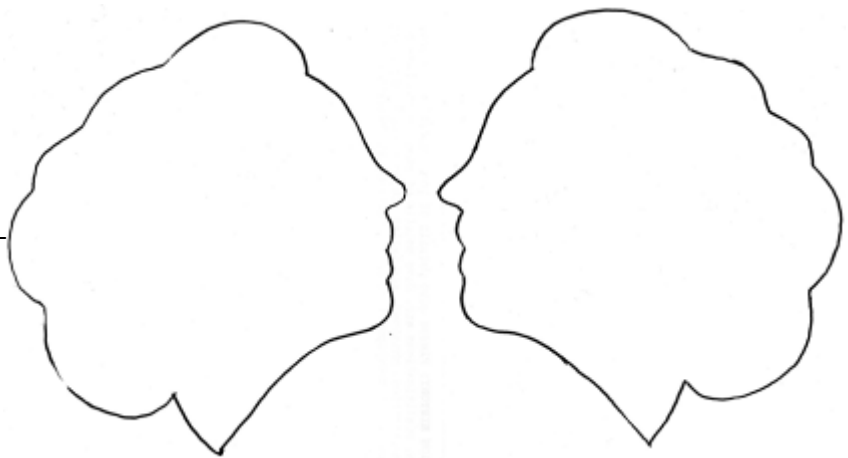


In this artwork, the artist used collage to represent how she saw herself in the past, and how she sees herself in the future.

TIP 1

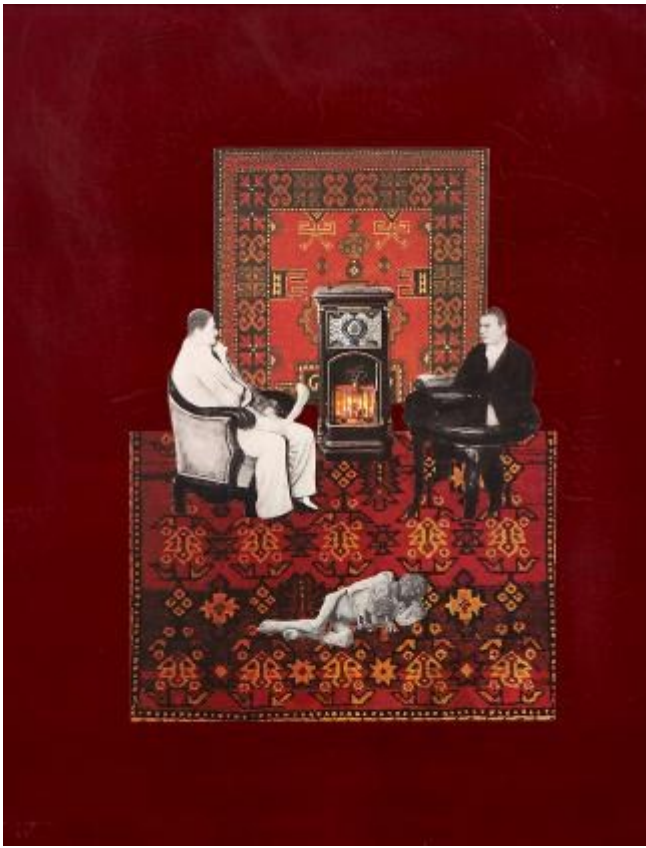
Stick the background on first – so it doesn't notice if you've gone over the edges and into the silhouette or lettering.

The artist created 'line drawing' self-portraits. She selected collage materials that had significance to her, such as old magazines or images and words from newspapers. She then filled in the portrait shapes and background to create the collage.



You can leave gaps in between the pieces to create a 'mosaic' effect.

Other Collage Works in the Ben Uri Collection



Max Heliger (Code name for account in Reichbank of confiscated money and gold from concentration camps)

“The holocaust terrified me as a child, producing violent nightmares. The later contrast of Anne Frank's diary, one voice -- one child, seemed to provide some way into a world of events unbelievable but true. The need to deal with it became obsessive. The need to provide a reminder, a measure of possibility that the human condition or predicament might still include dignity”

Reginald Case

Reginald Case creates 'surrealist' collages which combine figurative and abstract elements. His childhood memories of learning about the Holocaust through books and magazines have influenced his work. He creates works about the horrors of the Holocaust, which, though they took place in the past, still remain a possibility in contemporary society. He uses images of beautiful things created by 'man' such as the decorative rugs or other artworks, alongside more disturbing images of people, victims or perpetrators, which simultaneously show man's cruel and destructive capabilities.



Nazi Berlin Cabaret

Making a book ...

Making a hand-made book can be a great way of presenting your work/research. You can use them in so many ways:

for collecting samples of materials that you might like to use in your work, such as different papers, fabrics, newspaper articles, pictures

as a sketch book to record ideas or observational studies for works

as a book for recording art that inspires you, this could be art seen at exhibitions, street art, advertising, on websites/blogs etc etc.

or all of the above!

You will need

A4 Card (for cover)

Papers: sugar; plain (copier); coloured/craft; tissue

Wallpaper/Fabric (for cover)

Needle & thick thread

Scissors

Pencil

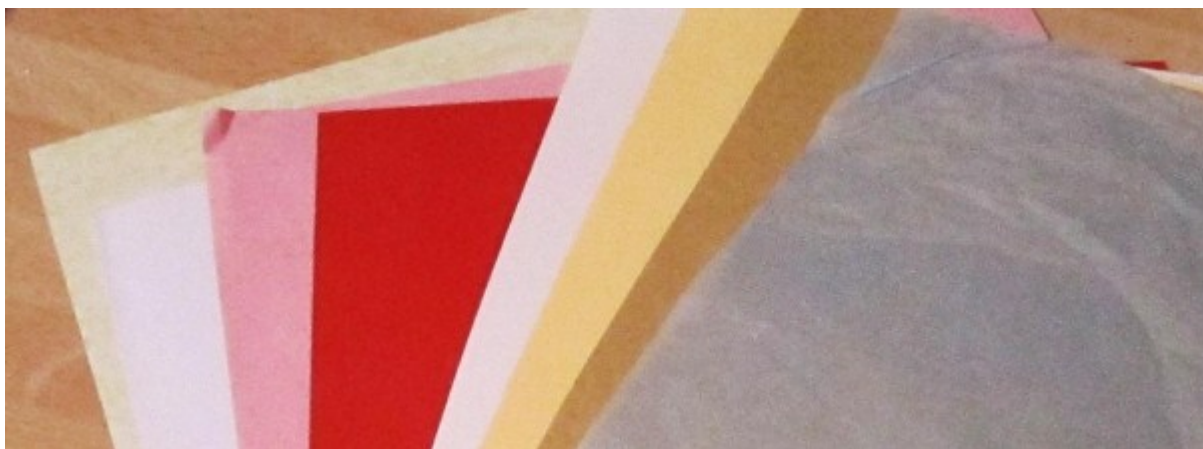
PVA

Double-sided and regular sticky tape

Embellishments, such as stickers, buttons, ribbons, etc.

Take a piece of A4 card and fold it in half.

Choose the papers you would like in your diary. You can have a selection of colours and textures suitable for a variety of drawing and painting materials.

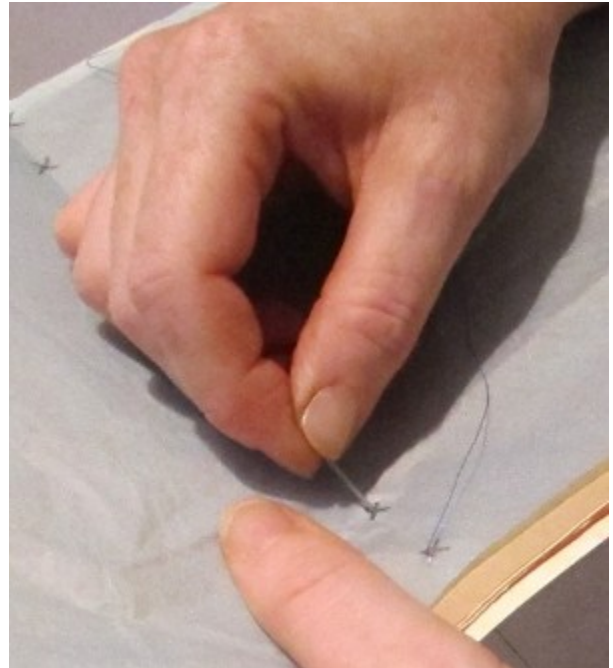


Neatly fold the papers in half, making sure they fit inside your piece of card.

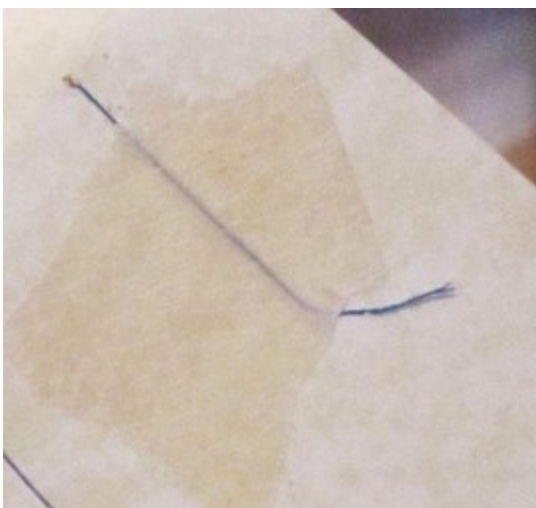
Now you can sew the pages together....

Work from the outside piece of card and through all layers of paper.

Keep a space of around 2cm from the edge and also in-between stitches.



Tape down the thread ends with sticky tape on the 'front cover' of the book.



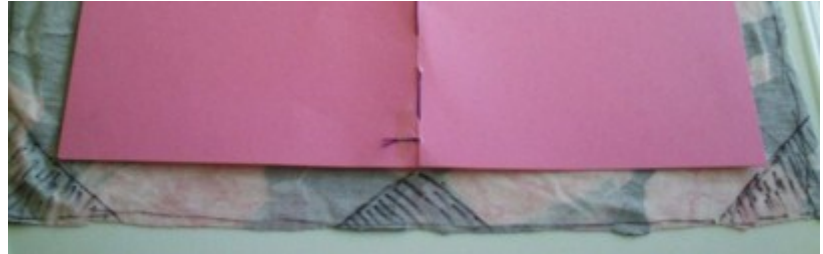
TIP 1

Mark in pencil where you want to stitch. You can make holes with a compass first to make the sewing easier.

Make sure you start, and end up, on the outside of the card.

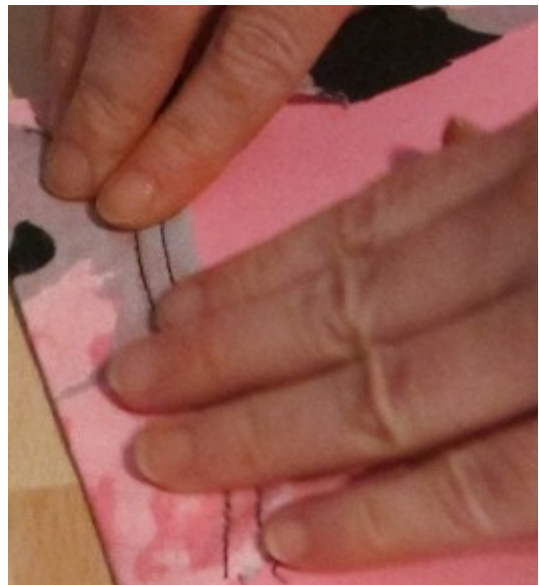
Now cover the front of your book with fabric or thick strong paper.....

Cut a piece of fabric or wallpaper to a size slightly larger than the card; leave an edge of approx. 1 inch.



Lay the material under your open book (pattern side down) and draw around the pages. Mark where the central fold is at both ends.

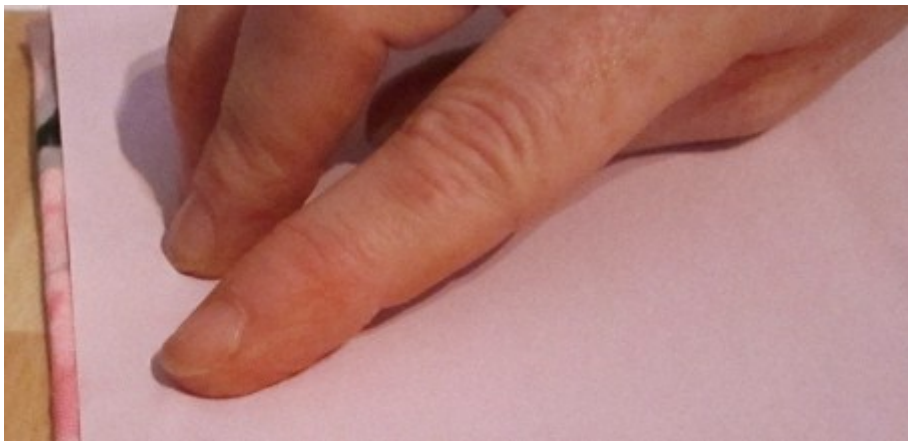
Cut away triangles of excess fabric from the corners and central folds.



Place the book on to the fabric and fold down the flaps. Glue them in place with PVA, press down firmly, and leave to dry.



Put a sheet of paper over each inside, to hide where the fabric was stuck down. This gives it a neat finish.



Tip 3

Fabric sample books are great for sourcing good quality fabrics in interesting designs..

TIP 4

Place the diary under something heavy while it's drying.

