

Skinny Strip Collage

“Collage” is literally transformed when thin strips are paired with descriptive words.

(art + history)

To glue or not to glue ... that is the question. But for collage artists, it's mandatory! The word collage comes from the French word, “coller,” which means “to glue.” So, the process and also the finished product can be called collage. When the word collage is used as a verb, it refers to the process of gluing and assembling various materials on a flat surface — a process that is probably as old as paper itself.

In the art world, however, collage really wasn't used until about the early 1900s when artists started using collage as a modern method to make art. Artists including Pablo Picasso, Hannah Höch, Henri Matisse and George Braque each implemented this method. In fact, the method and the word were initially popularized by Picasso and Braque in 1912 when they began their work with Cubism. These artists were the first to affix newsprint, postage stamps, painted papers, and other materials to their paintings.

The art critic Clement Greenberg wrote in a 1959 essay, “Collage was a major turning point in the evolution of Cubism, and therefore a major turning point in the whole evolution of modernist art in this century.”

By using the technique of collage, artists could deconstruct the subject matter they were interested in, and then reassemble it in a whole new way. This changed people's perceptions about a certain subject. With the addition of the written word in contemporary art, artists can create work that is additionally insightful, satiric, melancholy, or nostalgic. The combination of linguistics and visual art has been growing in recent years. Skinny Strip Collage encourages greater self-expression by incorporating descriptive words with collaged imagery.

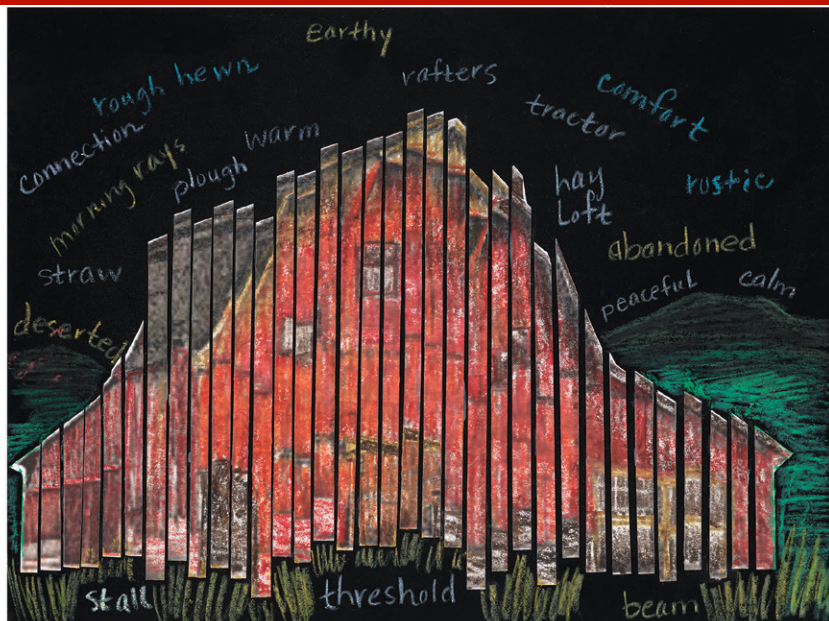
GRADES 5-12 Note: Instructions and materials are based upon a class size of 24 students. Adjust as needed.

Preparation

1. Provide each student with a piece of Black Chalk Paper, a piece of drawing paper, and scissors.

Process

1. After deciding on the subject matter that will be used in the collage, either create a drawing on paper, or find printed subject matter that could be used.



Materials (required)

[Strathmore 100 Series Black Chalk Paper Pad](#), pkg of 15 sheets, 9" x 12" (10743-1023); share two pads across class

[Prang Ambrite Paper Chalk](#), set of 12 (21987-1129); share four sets across class

[Blick Studio Drawing Pad](#), 30 sheets, 9" x 12" (10314-1043); one sheet per student

[Canson Foundation Graph Pad](#), 4" x 4" grid, 40 sheets, 8-1/2" x 11" (10636-2485); one sheet per student

[Aleene's Quick Dry Tacky Glue](#), 4 oz (23884-1104); share four bottles across class

[Snippy Scissors](#), sharp, pkg of 12 (57040-2009) share two packages across class

Optional materials:

[Fiskars Recycled Bypass Paper Trimmer](#) (57182-2012)

[Potter's Ribs](#), #7 quarter oval (30358-1007)

[Blick Matte Fixative](#) (21707-1105)



Process, continued

2. On the back of the drawing or printed image, glue a piece of graph paper either vertically or horizontally. It's a good idea to spread the glue very evenly using a piece of cardboard or similar tool. When applying the graph paper to the back, start on one end and roll the paper down while smoothing it to the other end. Allow to dry.
3. Cut apart the collage imagery into strips using the lines on the graph paper as a guide. Now, number the strips on the back in a visible way. When they are put back together, the strips will need to be in numerical order.
4. On a piece of black chalk paper, start reassembling the image that was cut apart. It's a good idea to arrange the strips on a table to visualize the amount of space needed when the image is reassembled. The strips can be placed close together, allowing the black chalk paper to show through. They can be woven in areas, some could be placed perpendicular to the other strips, etc. Strips of text from newspapers or magazines can be used instead of or in addition to the strips of the image.
5. When each strip has been glued to the black chalk paper, start adding words to complement and/or explain the collaged image.
6. Use a matte fixative on the final piece if desired.

National Core Arts Standards - Visual Arts

Creating

Anchor Standard 1: Generate and conceptualize artistic ideas and work.

Connecting

Anchor Standard 11: Relate artistic ideas and works with societal, cultural, and historical context to deepen understanding.



Step 1: Draw or gather collage imagery and glue graph paper to the back. Number strips and cut out.



Step 2: Reassemble imagery while gluing it to Black Chalk Paper.



Step 3: Add descriptive or meaningful words in chalk.