

Composition Outside the Box: Collage and Assemblage

With Jane Davies

Cropping a piece is sometimes a tempting way to 'resolve' it - just lop off the part that isn't *working*, and the rest of it is a finished piece. But have you considered *adding* onto a piece? Or starting with no substrate at all? I have discovered that assembling collage materials without a substrate (they attach to each other) allows you to compose from a different point of view. Add, subtract, overlap, glue, tear, and stitch your materials together into surprising works of art!

This class is for reasonably experienced artists. You must have work you can discard and plenty of collage paper. If you feel stuck and need a new direction, this class is likely to shake something loose. Bring LOTS of material for collage* and at least half a dozen works on paper that you can discard.

Other supplies you will need:

- Acrylic paints, including an opaque white (I use Blick Matte Acrylics white, 8 oz bottle). Bring lots of colors, not just the ones you like or don't like.
- Brushes - bring a variety of brushes that you are comfortable with
- Scissors
- PVA glue or white glue
- Palette - I use the pad-of-paper style disposable palette
- Spray bottle of water
- Drawing tools: I recommend paint markers, water soluble crayons, pencils, etc. Oil pastels are fine too.
- Other bells and whistles you like to use

I will bring:

- Stitching supplies
- Cheap drawing paper, probably used
- Some collage papers to share
- Plastic quart containers for water
- Chocolate (if you behave)
- Wit and charm

*Collage material may include: your own painted papers, including solid colors; ephemera; papers you have purchased (don't purchase them for this class, use up materials that you already have); magazine bits, paper shopping bags; used gift wrap, printed text in various sizes. The key is variety. You may include some fabric scraps as well if you have them, and discarded works on canvas (cut the canvas of the stretcher).