

## **Abstract Collage: A Lesson in Composition**

Want to loosen up while experimenting with composition, color, and value? Mixed Media Collage is the perfect medium, and abstract art is an ideal platform. Collage allows the artist to experiment with shape, texture, placement, and values before committing to a composition. It's malleable, so it allows zero-risk experimentation. Abstract art is the perfect playmate. It's easy to be distracted by subject matter when painting something representational like a flower, landscape, or figure. With abstract art, the artist must command the eye of the viewer using nothing but shape, texture, line, color, and values.

In this class you will learn how to:

- Build a collage using a variety of papers, tools, and application methods.
- Create purposeful papers using a limited palette of a few colors plus black and white. You'll be surprised by the range of options you can achieve with so little.
- Direct the eye of the viewer with your unique composition of shape and values.

Abstract art has a voice unique to its' author, allowing both artists and viewers a distinct sense of freedom and expression. Join me for some experimental fun. Discover what can be achieved with a little paper, scissors, 2-3 colors, and some glue!

### **Supplies**

- Blank papers:
  - Newsprint sketch paper from the art store or even from Home Depot packing paper
  - White tissue paper (like the kind used in wrapping gifts)
  - Deli wraps
- Acrylic paint: Your favorite blue, favorite yellow, favorite red, black and white.
- Craft paint brushes (from Dollar General)
- Scissors
- Gel medium – gloss or semi-gloss (We have some in the art closet if you need to use it)
- Substrates of your choice
  - Mixed media paper or mixed media journal
  - Cradle board or MDF board
  - NOTE: Stretched canvas is not suitable for collage
- A scraper of some type (e.g. cake scraper, artist catalyst tool, old credit cards)
- Water bucket
- Paper towels
- Apron or old shirt to protect your clothes
- Optional: Texture makers (combs, stamps, stencils, bubble wrap, color shapers, etc.)
- Optional: Posca Pens or Markers