

Dimensional Collage – Syllabus and Materials list

Annalee Koehn – July 3-12

This week-long class combines traditional collage concepts and paper construction styles to explore a structural approach to image and form using found imagery and materials. Deliberate or makeshift, there is a body of artist collage referencing the world of 3D objects such as paper toys, games, and packaging. Informed by the tradition of artists' collage and assemblage work, including Eileen Agar, Romare Bearden, Joseph Cornell, Hannah Hoch, Claes Oldenburg, Pablo Picasso, Betye Saar and Kurt Schwitters, this class will explore and expand the possibilities of 3D structural imagery, function, utility, and content building. Students will employ traditional materials and tools such as bristol board, exacto knife, scissors, tape and glue, and a stockpile of colored papers, found images, other printed materials. Students will come away with a collection of meaningful objects that incorporate their personal vision and an expanded visual vocabulary.

Collage, by nature is dimensional, constructed and composed, using an additive process, often by layering and stacking. Here collecting materials is a form of research, trash and cast-offs have value as material, and printed materials come with both visual appeal and cultural context. We will expand upon all of that by visiting a range of relevant approaches to dimensional collage-making that will stir your interest and take you to places beyond the picture plane.

Course Expectations, Attendance and Course Content

Punctual arrival to class in the morning and after lunch are required, and attendance is mandatory. Students should come to class prepared for that day's coursework, with all materials needed, and active participation in all activities is required.

Each day will start with a group meet-up, demos and discussion, and work period. We'll break for lunch, reconvene afterward and continue our work in class, and re-group again at end of each day. I will provide a few broadly-drawn assignments, but after our morning group activities each day, your studio work will be self-directed, allowing you to follow the ideas and threads that most interest you. On the last day we'll have a final Critique and discussion in the afternoon, and we'll work together on a final studio clean-up. You can expect to complete 7-10 finished projects of varying scale and complexity, and you'll leave with a long list of discoveries to work on later.

Topics will include: Collage history, collaging techniques and strategies, materials and context, adhesives, approaching dimensionality through scale, texture, and form, existing products and dimensional paper items, structural form-making techniques and strategies with paper, and functional paper structures related to toys, games, figures, pop-ups, and more.

Students should bring these things to OxBow –

Collage Supplies- start collecting and bring these found items:

In a small box or a large envelope, start collecting and pack a variety of found items that have the potential to use for collage. Look for what you have around and/or visit a thrift store. Some ideas: discarded packaging, used greeting cards, other mail, cast-off interesting colored or patterned papers, wrapping papers, magazine or other found paper images, photos, fabric scraps, interesting small boxes or envelopes, colored yarn, string, lace, trims, etc. Plan on sharing or trading some of what you bring.

Student Toolkit:

- Sketchbook and whatever materials you are comfortable with: pens, pencils, erasers, markers, etc.
- Bristol Board (white) – 14" x 11" or larger, pad of 15-20 sheets – Blick, Canson or Strathmore 400 series
- White glue – Medium-sized bottle – ALSO bring a flat brush for painting glue onto paper
- Glue stick: large acid free
- Roll of masking tape
- Scotch transparent tape
- Roll of Transfer Tape: 1" wide <https://www.dickblick.com/products/blick-transfer-tape/>
- Scissors
- Exacto knife with #11 Blades
- Extra package of #11 Blades
- Ruler – 18" or 24" cork-backed steel ruler
- Clear plastic Layout Ruler – usually 2" wide and at least 12" long
- Triangle (6" or larger)
- Compass for drawing circles – inexpensive is fine
- OPTIONAL- Acrylic paints and brushes
- Shop apron is really useful if you have one