

assembled COLLAGE

YOU CAN USE paintings or parts of paintings, handmade papers, collected objects, stamps or other iconographic elements — the sky is the limit! Incorporating objects that hold special meaning make your art more precious. Here are a few ideas...

you bring:

Small painting on paper, print or other main element:

bring three to choose from (see #2 next page)

Acquired: maps, magazines, newsprint, sheet music, postage stamps, purchased patterns, shells or stones, driftwood, antique gears, keys, parts of old letters

Handmade: marbled patterns on paper, citrasolv with National Geographic, stamped or stenciled deli papers (try using ferns or leaves for a stencil), painted with acrylic using foam roller or a gelli plate and brayer, paper made from plant pulp

TIP: Organize your papers in zip bags or clear poly envelopes / zip or string closure

Optional materials: gold leaf, paint crayons or markers, graphite sticks, cloth or lace, crackle paste, watercolor ground, —

these are ideas, BRING ONLY WHAT YOU WANT TO USE OR SHARE.

Scissors

I will provide:

Acrylic Gel (soft or flex)

Acrylic brush for gel

Wood cradled panel

Tape

Paper to share

Citrasolv & National
Geographics (I will demo if
we have adequate
ventilation)



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This 8x8 night heron uses marbled paper, a postage stamp, paper made from lichens, gold leaf, a shell and a leaf skeleton.

here's how

1. FIRST COLLECT YOUR ELEMENTS —

Gather more than you'll need, then be selective in using just the ones that work well together. We'll be working on 8x8 cradled panels (supplied). Paint the edges with acrylic before collaging, or rub Dorlands Wax on the wood when finished, for a natural look.

2. CHOOSE THE MAIN ELEMENT —

Having one dominant image can set you up for success. This might be a piece torn from an original painting that wasn't working or a small painting I like that could benefit from enhancing. Choose elements that are SMALLER than your finished piece or have space in the background to allow room for other elements. Bring several options.

3. GATHER THE SUPPORTING ELEMENTS —

Bring a few objects or papers from home, others can be collected at camp. Consider bringing extra objects or papers to share with others. This is a fun way to collaborate!

4. ARRANGE OBJECTS USING DESIGN PRINCIPLES —

Think about where your focal point will be and what shapes you're dividing your painting into. Consider the shape of each corner and the value pattern the shapes make. Move things around or swap them out until it pleases you. Change the size of shapes as needed. Remember that often less is more! If something doesn't add, take it out.

5. TACK THINGS IN PLACE WITH TAPE —

Use a loop of tape under each piece.

6. GLUE TOGETHER —

Working bottom layer first, with a brush apply acrylic gel (a high quality, acid free and permanent glue) to one piece, then put it in place. I sometimes also coat gel on the background to get the best bond. Use a soft gel, or Nova FLEX gel except when you're attaching heavy items — then you'll want thick gel. Matte gel accepts watercolor paint better than gloss gel and isn't as shiny so I prefer it over gloss but both work. Continue until all pieces are attached.

7. FINISH WITH ACRYLIC —

If you've painted in watercolor, spray with acrylic varnish and let that dry before brushing a coat of acrylic gel over the top to seal it all in.