

quick and beautiful

CITRASOLV

Here is a simple way to make gorgeous, vividly colored art papers. It's so easy! Like unwrapping a present, you never know just what you'll get. Some of them will be superbly colorful but make plenty of plain, neutral papers too. And be sure to make papers in light, medium and dark values. For a small investment you will have a good supply of unique material for collage.



You will need

Citrasolve cleaner

Plastic Wrap
or other thin plastic

Worked table covered with
plastic

Plastic gloves

National Geographic
Magazines



(they use a special type of ink — others DO NOT work.

The oldest magazines do not work but any after 2000 do for sure)

Follow these steps

1. Tear out magazine pages with large, brightly colored photographic images and some neutral pages too. The color will influence the outcome, so try a variety.

2. Work outside if you can. Open windows if working indoors so fumes will dissipate. While citrasolve is a natural product made from orange peels, it is still a solvent. Prepare your work area.



3. Put on gloves. Pour a half to full teaspoon of citrasolv on a page and move it around with your fingers to coat the entire surface. Place another page on the top, with desired surfaces together. You can create a whole stack of paired pages, or coat both sides — but then you'll have to choose your favorite side!

4. Continue to apply citrasolve to pages until they are all coated, then let them soak it up for a few minutes. The citrasolv will eventually dissolve the ink into a liquid again which allows it to move.

5. Pull the pages apart — sometimes they look a lot like an old Polaroid print. If the ink still appears stable, rub gently with your fingers to lift and blur the photo images. Usually I make sure they are transformed enough that the original image disappears, though I sometimes leave bits of the original content. If you've allowed plenty of time for the ink to soften and it still isn't moving, add a little more citrasolv and repeat.



Smart Beaver

This painting uses several kinds of collage papers that were all created by me. The sky and tail are citrasolv paper. The aspens in the background are stamped with a hand made stamp using acrylic paint rolled onto a gelli plate, then printed on deli paper. The brown body is paint that is applied with a sponge roller and the rest of the body and the facial features are marbled black craft paper. The signature chop is stamped with watercolor on deli paper, varnished and applied.



6. If the ink still appears stable, rub gently with your fingers to lift and blur the photo images. Usually I make sure they are transformed enough that the original image disappears, though I sometimes leave bits of the original content. If you've allowed plenty of time for the ink to soften and it still isn't moving, add a little more citrasolv and repeat.

7. Another option is to place the page with the wet citrasolv side facing down on thin plastic or plastic wrap. Pages laid on plastic will often have a crystalline pattern similar to this one. Try using plastic bubble wrap for an interesting texture.



8. You can continue to play with them while they're wet to vary the texture. Return them to the plastic or place them face to face.

9. Allow your papers to dry outside in the open air, when possible. I usually pull them apart before they dry completely, but when you let them dry before you pull them apart you'll get another patterning effect with more white showing where the ink sticks together and the paper tears.

Pages that are placed together often will have a bubble type pattern. Sometimes I leave a little of the original image show, other times I let it completely dissolve.

These papers will continue to smell, but don't worry — once the paper is coated with acrylic it will lose the solvent odor.



This collage portrait from my France workshop uses a variety of both torn and cut papers, with citrasolv paper in the background.