

"I believe more in the scissors than I do in the pencil." –Truman Capote

Collage is a visual art technique that involves assembling an image from a variety of different materials, often in the form of cut and pasted paper. Collage is a great technique for visual thinking, because it allows us to easily experiment or play with images and possibilities. Collage is accessible and versatile; it requires no drawing skill, and can allow us to create images that are very realistic or extremely abstract. However, when working with found images, many people simply create a visual list of subjects. It can be difficult, or even intimidating, to feel a sense of ownership with found images. With practice, we can take advantage of one of the greatest attributes of collage: *the emphasis of responsiveness over control*. We develop a fine-tuned attentiveness to the unplanned, to "mistakes," to creative problem-solving and true discovery.

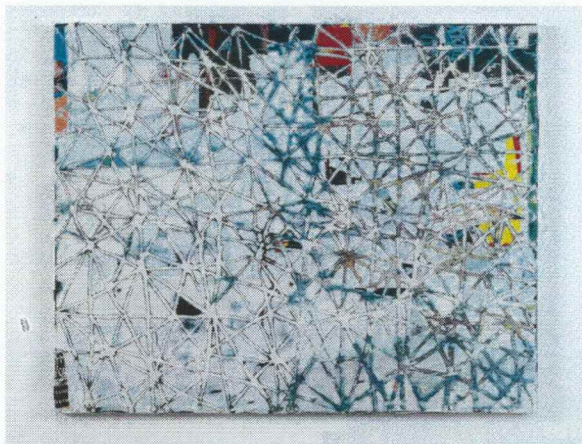
This workshop will introduce approaches to collage that encourage thinking beyond gathering or "listing" subject matter, into deliberately manipulating and shaping collage material into new compositions. Over afternoon session, we will create 2 collage projects. We can discuss ways to utilize collage to teach design principles in the classroom.

### 1. "Mapping Abstraction" Collage

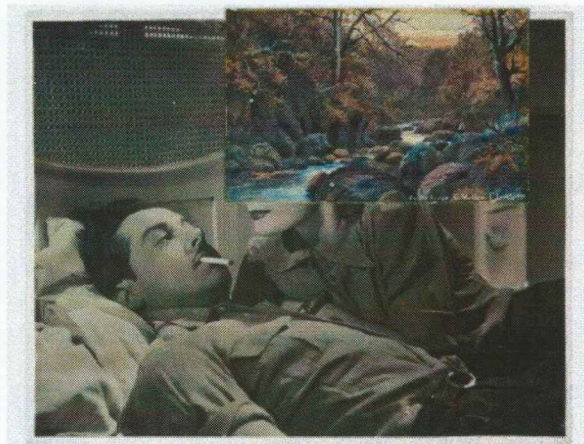
In pairs or small groups, you will collectively build a large collaged composition out of maps. Your goal is to use the maps as a point-of-departure for a composition that is much more about an emotional or conceptual response to place than it is about practical navigation. This exercise can focus on rhythm, unity and variety, frequency, shape, color, value, contrast.

### 2. "Quick Wit" Collage

This collage is technically very simple, but conceptually tricky. It involves minimal cutting and layering, but LOTS of trial and error. Make a collage that is clever, funny, or witty using simple juxtaposition and a minimum of material -- 2 or 3 cut forms total. This collage, while still a visual endeavor, is more heavily reliant upon idea, concept, or message. Think of the equation "1+1=3". Your goal is to take a few recognizable subjects, keep them recognizable, but have them also create a third "thing" (a shape, reference, or idea) through their combination. This exercise will emphasize contrast and unity.



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