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NO-SEW FABRIC COLLAGES



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No-Sew Fabric Collages

Materials:

- Paper and pencils for sketching
- Background fabric (see directions below for preparing backgrounds or use commercially printed fabrics)
- A variety of large fabric scraps, sample books, new cotton fabrics, or up-cycled fabrics
- Iron-on adhesive, available at fabric stores or online. I recommend Heat n Bond Ultrahold (available at a good price - \$9.71 for 10 yds. - at <http://www.stuff4sewing.com/>)
- Scissors
- Iron and appropriate surface to use for ironing
- Newsprint
- Sewing notions/embellishments: buttons, ribbon, sequins, rick rack, lace, beads
- Optional: foam core for backing

Directions:

- Prepare fabric by ironing Heat n Bond or other fusible adhesive to the back, leave the paper backing on
- Draw image (figure, house, animal, etc.) in a size appropriate for the background fabric on white paper
- Cut the image out separating parts that will be different colors (i.e. all flesh color parts -head, arms, legs)
- Select a fabric for each part of the cutout
- Trace the cutout pieces onto the back of the fabric (paper side) and cut the pieces from the fabric - images will be reversed unless the drawing is traced facedown
- Remove the paper backing from the cut fabric pieces and arrange them on the background fabric
- Place a piece of newsprint paper over the collage and press with a hot iron
- Add details with buttons, ribbons, etc by gluing them to the collage with craft glue



Photos: Maryland Art Education Association Workshop, October 2012

Preparing Background Fabrics: Tie Dye

Materials:

- White or light color cotton fabric (pre-washed if new), old sheets or other up-cycled fabric
- Rubber bands - try a variety of thicknesses for different effects
- Plastic bucket for each dye color used
- Liquid dye (RIT) *
- Latex gloves
- Stirring stick or wooden spoon



Directions:

- Prepare dye bath according to directions
- Distribute rubber bands and fabric (approximately 8x10 inches)
- Write names at the bottom of the fabric with a permanent black marker
- Twist or fold fabric and tightly wind the rubber bands around to create resist areas.
- Place bundles into dye bath and stir gently with a wooden spoon or stick for several minutes
- Let the bundles soak in the dye bath for about another $\frac{1}{2}$ hour then remove and rinse until no more dye is released from the fabric
- If students will not be unwrapping the bundles until the next class it is best to dry the bundles (keeping the rubber bands on) in a dryer or in the sun.
- Once dry, the fabric can be over-dyed by rewrapping with rubber bands and dyeing the fabric with a second (darker color).



<http://www.ritdye.com/dyeing-techniques/sink-or-bucket>

*Never mix powder dyes around children, if using, wear a respirator to mix the powder with water ahead of time. The benefits of using fiber reactive Procion dyes are that a wider range of colors are available and they will be more economical if you are doing a lot of dying. More information about using dyes can be found at

<http://www.dharmatrading.com/topnav/dyes/>

Preparing Background Fabrics: Glue Line Batiks

Materials:

- White drawing paper 8x10
- Black crayons or markers
- White or light color cotton fabric 8x10
- Elmer's Washable School Glue or Washable School Glue Gel
- Acrylic paints
- Brushes
- Buckets or large bowls (one for every 4-5 students)
- Wax paper

Directions:

- Draw a simple black line drawing or pattern on the white paper
- Place the drawing under a piece of wax paper slightly larger than the paper
- Place the fabric over the wax paper so that the drawing can be seen through the layers
- Go over the lines with glue and allow to dry completely
- Paint the fabric with desired colors using thinned acrylic paint (the paint will fade a bit later)
- Allow the paint to dry completely
- Soak the fabric in warm water (add a few drops of liquid dish soap) for about $\frac{1}{2}$ hour to loosen the glue
- Scrap any remaining glue off with fingers and re-rinse until all glue is removed
- Dry and iron the fabric



Resources:

Studio Art Quilt Associates: www.saqa.com Registry of professional quilt artists

Michael Cummings, Artist and Quilter: www.michaelcumplings.com

In the Hollow of Your Hand: Slave Lullabies, Alice McGill, Illustrated by Michael Cummings

Miriam Schapiro: various websites, *Rondo*, Miriam Schapiro ISBN-13: 978-0938491125

Laurie McCown: Quilt Artist <http://www.loriemccown.com/fiber/1>

Craft in America: Episode VIII - Threads www.craftinamerica.org

Quilting Arts Magazine



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