

## **Surface Design, Photo Transfers and Collage Techniques with Paper and Fabric**

### **Hollie Heller**

This workshop will offer artists experimental approaches to combining paper, fabric and photography with collage. We will begin with producing a variety of patterned and layered papers using surface design techniques that are commonly applied to fabric such as batik, shibori, application of dyes and discharge, printing and stamping. The incorporation of a variety of photo transfer techniques on paper and fabric utilizing an ink jet printer will enable the inclusion of photographic imagery. Students will then be introduced to collage techniques combining their colorful and photographic papers with other found papers, fabrics and recycled materials. A demonstration of a unique process of stiffening fabric will be given as well as folding saturated transparent papers and fabrics that have been immersed in a stiffening agent to create beautiful individual “design packages” that can be combined together in a variety of innovative ways.

### **Supply List**

In this class students will be introduced to collage techniques with an emphasis on layering and combining transparent papers and fabrics using stiffening techniques. It is helpful for students to bring some design and color inspiration to the class. I would like to suggest this idea if it works for you. Find something in your home that you really love the colors and design of and bring it to the class to use as inspiration for your collage. For example maybe a patterned piece of fabric, clothing, scarf, placemat, pillow, a beautiful collection of beads, shells, a small painting or print, a ceramic cup or bowl, a piece of jewelry, a photograph, postcard, or book of an artist’s work that you are very drawn to, a child’s toy, a natural object such as a plant, flower, shells, fruit or vegetable, or a photograph of a beautiful landscape, etc. To create a color scheme in order to help guide your color choices choose and isolate 6-10 colors from your chosen inspiration and find paint chips or Color Aide paper that matches as close as possible- it is good if you have at least one warm, cool and neutral color. Tape these color swatches into your sketch book or put them in an envelope.

Next start collecting materials that are inspired from your chosen object. Search for papers and fabrics of different weights, textures and patterns (try staying with the lighter weights and transparent papers and fabrics). You can also incorporate found and recycled materials- magazine pictures, newspaper imagery or text, or copies of your own photographs, cardboard, coffee filters, cereal boxes, old clothes, ribbons or trim, string or yarn, old paintings or prints that you are willing to cut up, old letters, books or documents, wall paper, decorative paper napkins and any other collectables that you might want to incorporate into your collage.

#### **Other Materials to bring to class:**

- Sketchbook
- Sharp scissors
- masking tape
- rubber or plastic surgical gloves
- stapler (optional)
- Xacto knife and cutting board if you like to use that technique of cutting (optional-don’t buy this, only if you have it already otherwise scissors work fine)
- 4 varied sized sponge brushes from the hardware store or art supply store
- black or colored waterproof markers or inks that work in your color scheme (ink pads and rubber stamps (only if you have them))

Other brushes varied sizes you might have that are used for water based media (bamboo handled brushes are great)

A quart container of satin, or gloss medium (Liquitex is a good brand -don't buy the heavy gel you want fluid medium)

½ yard of white or light colored polyester window sheers or china silk, cotton, organdy, or any other light weight and light colored fabric (can be a print or stripe etc)

staple gun or approx 50 push pins

1 sheet of colored Canson paper that fits into your color scheme

1 or more sheets of lighter weight watercolor paper

1 or 2 sheets of rice paper- sometimes called calligraphy paper (a pad is fine too- can be small) tracing paper (optional)

1 sheet of heavy weight watercolor paper (140- 300 lb- hot or cold pressed) - at least 18" x 24" or one or more pieces of masonite, gesso board, or clay board any size to use as a collage surface. Also stretched gesso canvases work fine as a collage surface (any size)

(6) 1lb deli containers with lids (medium size)

(1) 20" x 26" stretcher frame that comes in 4 wooden lengths that painters use to stretch fabric on (bigger or smaller is fine and an old used one is fine)

Sewing materials if you are interested in combining stitching in your work (optional)

Embellishment materials (beads, buttons, trims, ribbon) if that interests you (optional)

Iron (optional as QBL will provide ones to share)

hairdryer or heat gun (optional)

An old towel

photographs or flat images or materials that you are interested in making photo transfers with photos or pieces of your own work or work that you are inspired by

**\$35 dollar lab fee** for dyes, bleach, wax, 5 sheets of transfer paper and various other materials (fabric and paper)