

Create a Collage by artist Abol

There are several ways to create collage art. One of the easiest ways is to use coloured and patterned paper from recycled magazines and newspapers. There is no limitation on what can be included in your collage if your glue will stick the cut material to your surface. You can add paint, fabric scraps or even sentimental items to your collage. In this lesson, we will collage with paper.

Step 1: Start by gathering the following materials:



Scissors for cutting paper



A pencil and eraser



Glue stick



Old magazines



Thick paper or cardstock



Other colourful, recycled paper like wrapping paper or old newspapers

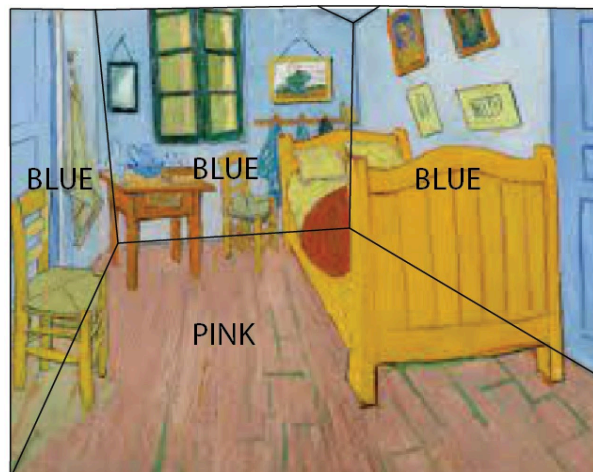


Tracing paper



A copy of a masterpiece that you admire, a photograph or an image or illustration you like. For this exercise, I chose Van Gogh's painting *Bedroom in Arles*.

Step 2: Place a sheet of tracing paper on top of your image and using a pencil, trace the elements in the image you want to include in your artwork. You don't need to trace everything, start by tracing the frame or outline of the image. Write down the colour of the element that you have traced on your tracing paper. For example, the walls are blue, and the floor is pink. You don't have to use the exact color in the original image, feel free to create your own version of the image.

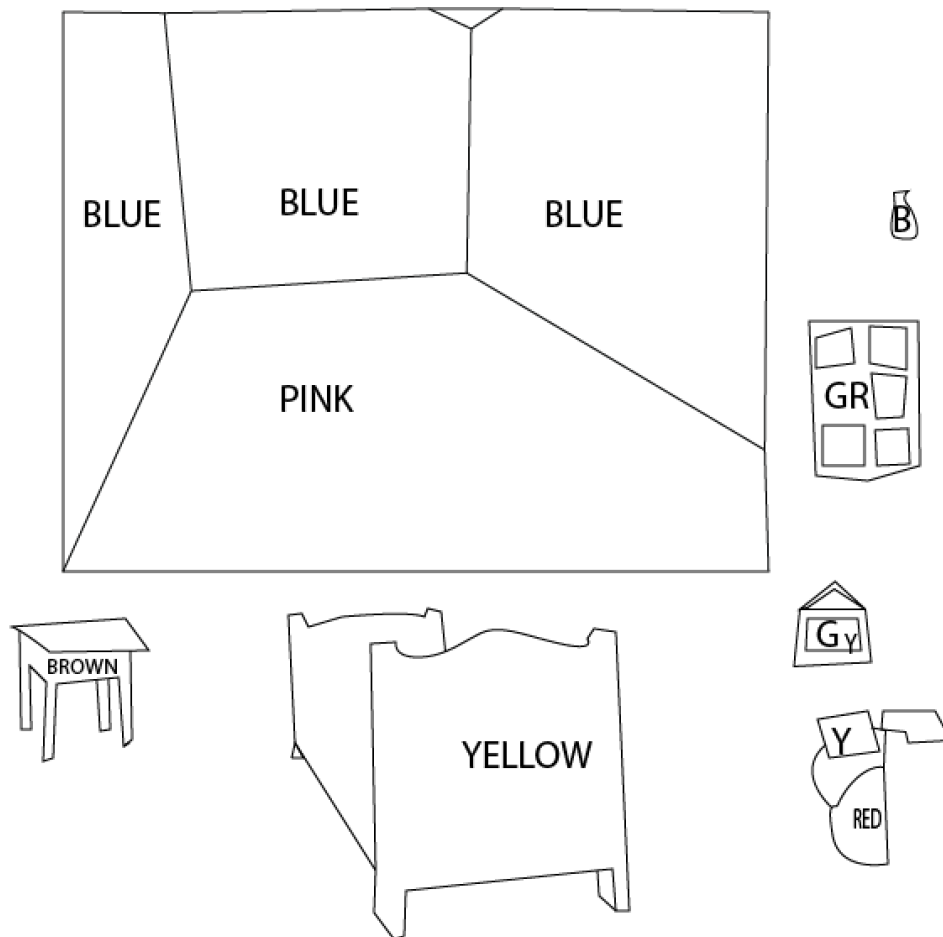


Step 3: Using a new sheet of tracing paper, trace a few of main elements in the image. In this example, I have traced the bed, the window and the table. Write down the colour of each element.

Step 4: Capture some more detail by tracing the smaller elements onto another clean sheet of tracing paper. I've traced the bed sheets, the pillows and a picture frame. You can even add your own elements to the image, like an imaginary vase of flowers on the table.



Your collection of traced elements might look something like this:



Step 5: Flip through your magazines and find images that have similar colours to what you have identified for every element. This step can take a bit of time! Place your tracing paper shapes on top of the magazine images and cut around them. Have fun selecting images from magazines. They might be solid colours, a blend of colours or have texture that can add charm to your collage work!



Step 6: Once you have all your pieces, it's time to start gluing them to your base paper. Start with the main framework (i.e., the bedroom floor and walls) and gently run your glue stick across the back of your cut images then place them on your base paper. Press firmly and wait a couple of seconds to make sure pieces are attached. Once your main framework is done, then place the elements (i.e., the bed, the window, the table) and finally place the small details. Feel free to arrange your collage the same way as the original image or mix it up!



Your masterpiece is complete!