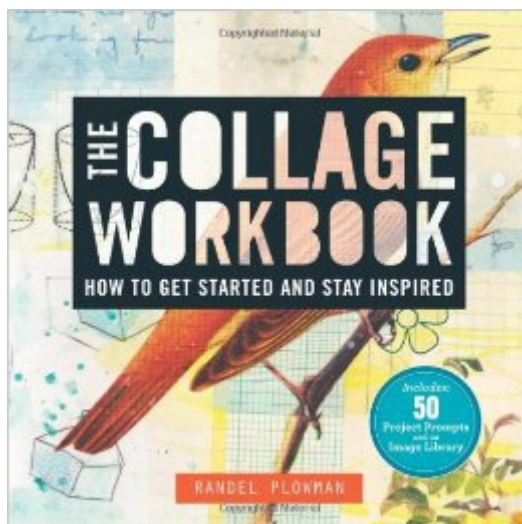


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The Collage Workbook: How To Get Started And Stay Inspired



Synopsis

Both a popular hobby and a recognized art form, collage encompasses a wide range of creative styles and techniquesâexploredÂ here by the creator of the popular A Collage a Day blog. Offering step-by-step instruction, visual inspiration, and even a library of copyright-free images, this hands-on guide covers all the necessary materials, tools, and know-how, from adding color and transferring images, to dÃ©collage (tearing away layers). And to spark the reader's imagination, there are 52 creativity prompts, such as a collage using the letters of a single word.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Length: 3:01 Mins

This book got such great reviews, I couldn't wait to receive it. My enthusiasm only lasted through the first few pages; Randall Plowman provides a stellar overview of collage tools and materials. After that the book begins to go downhill. He gives a decent but cursory review of design principles. I would have liked to have more depth and a greater number of examples. Then he reviews only two specific techniques; printing on tracer paper and laser transfers. After that he jumps directly to matting your work. So after teasing the reader with an amazing array of tools, he doesn't really teach the reader how to use them. He spends the rest of the book (approximately 80 expensive, color pages) giving very simplistic creativity prompts, like try tissue paper or try cardboard. These prompts are fun but could be laid out in ten pages or less. This book has a great beginning, an

interesting array of creativity prompts and almost no how-to. It's a beautiful looking book but if you want to learn techniques, skip it and buy something more helpful. I will as soon as I figure out which book that might be.

Collage is definitely not my strong suit - generally I struggle with it and use it sparingly in my work. That being said, with my keen interest in all things transparent, I have found a renewed interest in collage and this book arrived at the right time! The book is beautifully written and, most important, the instructions are clearly written and illustrated. The book covers the basics, of course: supports, adhesives, cutting tools, paints, how and where to gather images, on-line resources, storage and organization (did I use that word really?!). Next up are some basics about designs and composition and a chapter called "Layering 101" which is excellent! The next section, which I love is called "50 Creative Exercises" and these exercises are on using certain elements in your collage - like whites, typography, image pairings, dreams - you get the idea. These exercises are not specifically instructional, although each presents a paragraph to get your thought train moving, but rather the idea is illustrated with examples. Trust me - the images are worth more than more words would be in the context of the exercises! An image library is provided to get your creative juices flowing and a succinct Resource Guide is included for products, paints, glues, software, imagery and books. Well thought out. This one is a keeper for certain - and I actually think I will find renewed interest in using more collage in my mixed media work because of it !

I received my book in the mail just a few days ago and I am totally delighted to have a book like this. Right off the bat, Randel shares with us his experience with a final assignment for a class at the university, which was to make a collage using the elements of design. That was music to my ears. As an instructor of collage myself it's hard to teach this all in a limited segment of time to your students. It really takes practice and dedication to master it, which Randel has shown us here. Love the simplicity of his instruction and over all flow of whole book. "It's a must have for all collage artist." Laura Lein-Svencner

I appreciated how The Collage Workbook offers the opportunity to get into the mind of Randel Plowman, founder of the "A Collage A Day" blog, and learn more specifically about his techniques. On his blog, he creates a unique collage each day and posts it for the world to see and enjoy. I think that collage is such an interesting art form, with its layers of meaning and symbolism and the author seems to see possibility in just about every type of element and has a wonderful way of piecing it all

together to form a cohesive whole. Mr. Plowman breaks down this complex looking medium and explains clearly how to assemble collages for maximum effect. The themes that can be used are endless and he shares examples of collages based on flora, birds, hands, home, typography, old books and many more. The Collage Workbook includes over 150 copyright free images to use, in addition to explanations of the tools, techniques and materials used to make collages. As the author says, "Grab your scraps, glue, scissors and jump right in!"

This was a good solid book and there was a lot to like about it. I preface the review with the fact that I am a painter more than a collager so that is my bias. There is excellent design and composition information at the front end of the book which is a really useful reference. I found it really interesting and it was very clearly written and illustrated. There were 50 prompts to explore as well, and he provides examples of where he went with the prompt. Many of the prompts I thought were really good and prompts that would be easily translatable to an art journal or an art piece and there were quite a few that I want to explore further. He also provides some images at the back you can scan and use if you wish, and digital downloads of the images are available at a website he provides. I think the book is really good in terms of the prompts provided, and would be a good book for many mediums. The book did not really explore any new techniques or push the idea of collage to new levels, which may be understandable when all the work featured was his own so would be of the same general style. It did feel very suited to beginners to collage rather than those wanting to take collage to new level or explore new avenues. I found it a really good introduction book for beginners to collage, and it was not intimidating at all. He gives a good overview on the materials you require and getting started. I am glad it was the first one I read, and I recommend it for the prompts if you are a prompty person and there were quite a few new prompts that I hadn't seen before and you could taken them in all sorts of directions to inspire your work. At the end of the day, the by-line of the book is how to get started and stay inspired and I think the book achieves both those objectives. :)

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