**Collage Techniques**

Collage is easy, right? You *just* cut up some paper, steal someone else’s art, paste it together, and you’re done. Right?

**Wrong. BORING.** We are not in kindergarten here! Kindergarten is great! But we have moved beyond that.

Here are some collage techniques that serious artists employ. These techniques can help push your thinking outside of the obvious and into the nuanced, complex, questioning, layered world of creativity.

1. Use **“found” paper**. This means paper that may have been discarded, or not intended to be used in art. For example, this might be a candy wrapper that you like, or a bus ticket with a great font.
2. Other **“found”** material: wool, metal, fabric, natural fibers, etc.
3. **Wetting** the materials- what happens to it? Does the colour run? The the tissue disappear?
4. Adding **paint-** it can be used as a glue, to stamp with, put it on and wipe it off, etc.
5. **Ripping off the layers** after you have glued them down. What happens?
6. **Tearing or ripping** instead of cutting.
7. **Crumpling or creasing** the paper.
8. Using a textured surface and **rubbing** over it with chalk or pastel or crayon.
9. **Dripping wax** onto the surface.
10. **Layering materials**
11. Adding **photographs**
12. **Type collage:** collecting words or numbers and placing them together.
13. **Weave** the paper together**.**
14. Add **pencil crayon.**
15. Create a **textured support** with matte medium**- press textures into it.**
16. **Add fibers.**
17. **Sew and embroider** over the top of the image, or around it.
18. Use **negative space**: ie. Cut the image out, and use the hole it has left as a stencil with paint or marker or pencil, or use the silhouette.
19. Use tracing paper to trace and image and then glue the tracing paper down to your canvas.
20. **Extend** an image outwards-use only part of a picture and draw the rest. Ie. Use the torso of a man and draw his legs and feet.