

Tissue Paper Collage

This project is designed for all ages, but young children may need assistance from an adult.

A collage is an artwork made up of different papers or objects glued together. Eric Carle uses collage to create the illustrations for his books by cutting shapes out of painted tissue papers and gluing them to thick white board. Take a look at some of his books to see how he uses collage to tell a story, and then create your own collage using colored tissue paper.

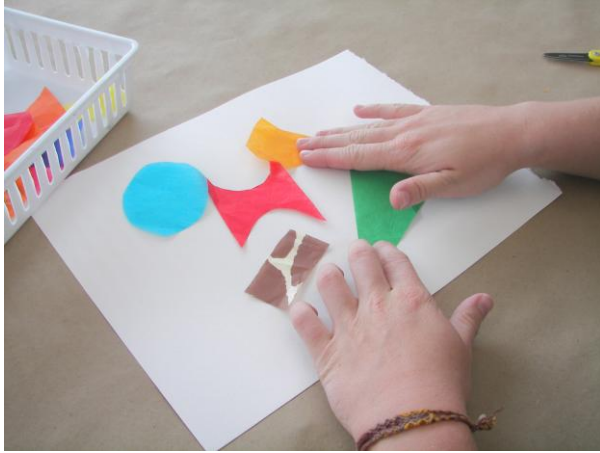


Materials Used in the Studio

- Watercolor or any heavyweight drawing paper to collage onto
- Bleeding and non-bleeding tissue papers in various colors, found at the craft store
- StayFlo or other liquid laundry starch
- An inexpensive ½” paint brush
- Scissors



Start by selecting a few colors of tissue paper you might like to use. Try “drawing with your scissors,” that is, cutting shapes without first drawing them on the tissue. Tearing works too.



Compose

Have fun experimenting with the arrangement of shapes on your background paper. Note what happens when you move a few pieces or when you add or remove some shapes. Do you find yourself making pictures or just enjoying combining shapes and colors in interesting ways?



Brush a thin layer of starch onto your background paper and place the tissue in the starch. Brush a thin coat of starch over the tissues if you want them to lay flat.

Explore

- Change the shape of your collage: cut, tear or fold the tissue papers or the background paper.
- What happens when you layer the tissue papers on top of each other?
- Some tissues will “bleed” their dye when they get wet. What else can you discover about the materials while creating your collage?

What more can you make?

Use this technique to make your own book or tell a story. Try using gel pens, markers or colored pencils on a dry collage.

To learn more about Eric Carle and his art, visit www.eric-carle.com