

Kay Weber: Artist and Art Educator



Bio

I was born in Hamburg, Germany, and graduated with Master's Degree in Fine Arts and Education from the University of Hamburg. Since 1994, I have participated in the San Francisco Open Studios, and my artwork has been selected for various art shows. In 2010, I completed a decade of service as a board member of ArtSpan, producer of San Francisco Open Studios, and chairman of the Open Studio Committee, a forum for artists organizing the citywide event. I am still an active member of the Art for City Youth Program, where we organize art literacy programs, art workshops, museum tours, and other activities intended to connect underserved youth with the local art community, and I also take part in Open Studios.

I have been working as an Art Director at the Boys & Girls Clubs of San Francisco Tenderloin Clubhouse for 25 years.

In 2003, I was honored to receive the Annual Childcare Provider Award of California from State Senator Jackie Speier for my dedication to mentoring and inspiring children in the Tenderloin area through art.

Additionally, in 2016 and 2018, I was honored to receive the Hidden Gem of the Tenderloin Award from the Wildflowers Institute.

Artist Statement

Cutting paper has always been my passion. All my works are handmade originals. Over three decades ago, I started creating little bookmarks. Utilizing cuticle scissors and an X-acto knife like a pencil, I draw within the paper, creating artwork inspired by mythological themes, multi-cultural stories of folk tradition, and our reliance on nature. Lately, single-layer paper cuttings have developed into multi-layered colorful mixed-media collages.

As an artist, I strive to create unique pieces that are both visually stunning and emotionally evocative. Each of my creations is a reflection of my passion for paper cutting and my dedication to the craft. I take inspiration from a variety of sources, including nature, culture, and mythology, to create layered collages that are both beautiful and meaningful.

Lesson#: 1

Title: Imaginary Journey - Paper Collage (Landscape)

Date: 2024. Time of Day: morning/afternoon

Artist: Kay Weber

Objectives:

- We will make collages using the elements of art & principles of design.
- We will become familiar with some famous collage artists
- We will learn some distinctions between paper collage, decoupage, photo montage, digital collage, three-dimensional collage (wood), assemblage
- We will demonstrate an understanding of the terms *collage*, *warm/cold colors*, *mood*, *balance*, *pattern*, *complementary*, *overlapping* , and *levels*.

Materials: construction paper in assorted colors, decorative scrap papers, pencil, scissors, glue, 9" X 12" sheets or larger of white (sulphite) paper or colored paper for backgrounds.

Introduction/Goals:

Introduction, Group Agreement - Expectations, Community Builder

Check in Question: What is your name? Describe your relationship with art or to collages?

Brief Introduction to Collage - techniques, famous artists, artwork images, techniques -

Vocabulary:

collage, warm/cold colors, mood, balance, pattern, complementary, overlapping, levels, and layers.

Closing:

Share out of artwork by talk about your process, the challenges and successes

Tips for Making Paper Collage Art

You have your selection of beautiful, handmade papers, a pile of magazines ready to snip with a pair of scissors, and your collected ephemera neatly stored in a box. Time to get going and make a collage.

1. Cut and place pieces down to nearly complete stage before sticking anything down.
2. Use your phone to take a picture you can refer to as you remove pieces to start sticking.
3. Think about your use of color. You might want to choose a range of blues and greens (colors that blend together) or go for clashing pinks and oranges. The same idea can look very different depending on the colors you use.
4. Think about the scale, for a dynamic and arresting collage. Turn things on their head pairing something that is normally small made giant size, next to something tiny that is otherwise huge.
5. Also think about repetition and pattern. The repetition of a given image or shape can also make a strong visual statement. A collage made from cut triangles or circles is simple to achieve and can be visually exciting.
6. It is important to balance the areas of space and imagery. An asymmetrical balance works well. Keeping things off-center in this way does make a good arrangement.
7. Use the 'rule of thirds'. This is a technique by which you divide your paper into three rows and three columns. The points at which the vertical and horizontal lines meet, are where the focal points of your collage should be.
8. Use positive and negative shapes. When I cut a shape, I usually love the off cut just as much, and will store it away for future use. Sometimes, I use both pieces on the same collage.
9. Sometimes you simply have to let go and see where the paper takes you without thinking too hard about it. The colors and shapes may suggest a direction to go in and I let them lead the way. This may sound an odd way to work, but with collage it seems to be the right way.
10. The main thing to remember is that, once you know about the rules of a good composition, you can break them and still make wonderful and striking works. In collage, rules are meant to be broken. The only thing that matters is spontaneity: start cutting out shapes, moving them around, and sticking them down. Just see what happens. It can be that simple. Surprise yourself.

CA State Standards:

1.VA:Cr2.1 Explore uses of materials and tools to create works of art or design.

K.VA:Cr2.3 Create art that represents natural and constructed environments.

1.VA:Cr3 Use art vocabulary to describe choices while creating art.

Relevant Artist(s) and Distinguished People:

Stuart Davis, Lance Letscher, Man Ray, Hannah Höch, Henry Matisse, Pablo Picasso, Rebecca Maloney

YouTube Videos: