

# Othona Art Week 2020

## Playing with Paper

Collage, Zigzag Books, Bead making, Mosaics and Box decoration.



Materials for Collage are simple. A piece of paper or card of any weight or colour, scissors, glue and possibly a pencil or ruler. Here are paper bags, the Radio Times, some advertising flyers, some old greeting cards, some craft papers and some hand painted paper using a acrylic paint and a scraper. You can also add fabric, wool, braid and lace, scrunpled up tissues and anything else you can think of.

I tend to use Pritt stick as it isn't sloppy like PVA can be but any glue you have is fine.



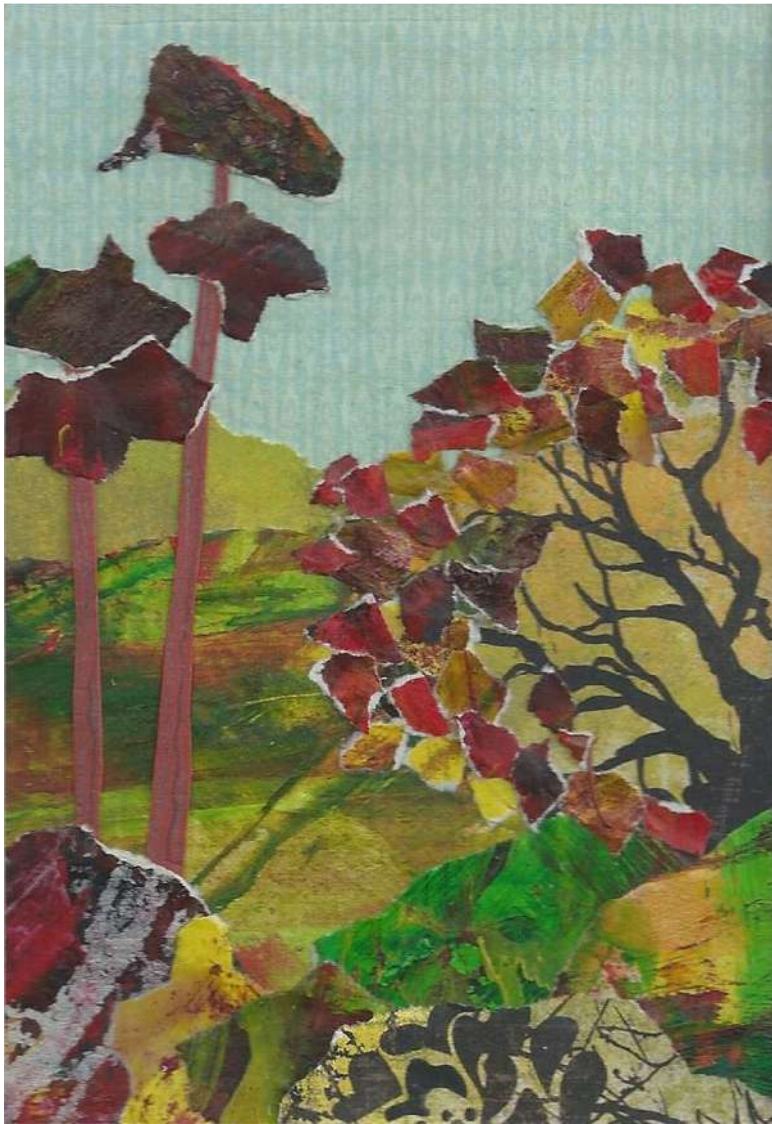
Two images made from one issue of the radio Times and some newspaper from the local paper. The vase is Anne Reid's cardigan and the flowers come from the gardening section. Some flowers are constructed from small pieces. This is not a well designed piece as it was strictly limited in the amount of material to choose from but I wanted to show that you can do something even if you only have newspapers, advertising material and typing paper.

Adding other papers and textures would all help make this a more interesting piece. The second image is more abstract and is entitled Armchair traveller!





This image is made of magazine pictures combined with craft papers. Some cut and some torn to add texture. Begin from the top back of the image and work forward, adding layers as you go.



The image on the left uses craft papers and painted papers, while the one on the right is all painted papers. I use the torn edges to add something to the image – particularly useful for wave effects. The painted papers are acrylic paint blobbed on to a large sheet of paper and spread using a flat surface – credit card, paint scraper or palette knife.





These two images show collage made from painted paper. Spreading paint with a scraper or credit card produces random effects so I make a lot of paper and choose the best bits to tear into collaged landscapes. Torn edges make effective waves and you can layer it up until it looks right. Sky on the left is a very thin scraping of blue paint to make clouds while on the right the white paint gives a different effect. Use acrylic paint in small blobs down the side of the sheet and draw it across.



This image is an experimental piece for the sketchbook course I am currently engaged on. The background is painted with a wave line of a textured paper which tore into fluffy edges – you could probably do this with ordinary tissues or loo roll. The pebbles are cut out of different papers to give texture and colour and I have drawn on some of them to add interest.

Collage gives you the opportunity to cover a multitude of sins so just keep adding layers or affects. Pritt stick will often let you take off or adjust placing before it dries completely which I find very useful.



Little zigzag books are fun to make. You can use paper with a cardboard cover or just a stiffer card with no cover. Cover the boards first and stick the zigzag in when completed. Use any materials you can find and make them haphazard or formal. I often let mine start on the left and develop as they go if I am using the whole space – I rarely have a finished plan before I start. The one with one picture to a page is themed – sea and sky, desert, landscape, ice and snow and so on. The little pictures are all tiny collages in their own right – these are about 9 x 7 cms, using off cuts from the bigger pictures I have made.







This is a black sketchbook which I covered with paper patchwork. I used the Dorset Art Weeks catalogue to get small, interesting, bright images but you could do this with any pictures. I covered this with sticky backed plastic. I have used this technique to decorate gift boxes or tissue box covers. Use PVA to glaze the finished collage.

The bookmark is just a piece of black card with strips of paper glued on to it. Possibilities here are endless. They also work well if you laminate them if they are fairly thin.





Paper beads are easy to make and surprisingly nice. All these are made from the Lidl Giveaway leaflet. Cut strips which taper to a point, add a little glue all the way along and simply roll them up round a knitting needle or spike of some kind starting with the fat end. The thicker the paper the fatter the bead will be and you can make rounder ones using a longer strip. Given how uninspiring the Lidl catalogue is, I was surprised how nicely they rolled up to show stripes of colour. String a few on thin elastic and you have a bracelet in no time. You can varnish them if you want them to last – PVA also makes a good varnish for this kind of thing although not waterproof.

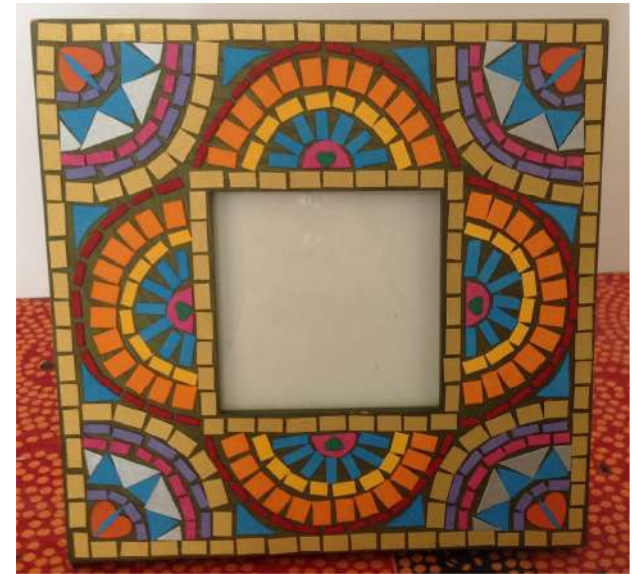


Mosaic work using paper is cheap and easy to do. I cut strips of paper which I cut into tesserae that then match in size to make formal patterns. Wide strips will cut into tall thin pieces or cut on a slant to make triangles and diamonds. I have used heart punches here as well and the use of patterned paper adds a richness to the overall effect.

These are a coaster (laminated), a photo frame and a box lid. Either chose a few colours which go well together or let rip with all the colours and patterns you have. A plain dark background works well – you can paint the box or frame before you start the mosaic. I bought frames from charity shops to tart up like this.



The last image shows how the paper is cut and some ways you can manipulate it. The little circles are cut by a hole punch. Use PVA glue with a brush and use the sticky brush to pick up and place the small pieces. Finish it all with a PVA varnish layer which gets rid of gluey patches made by the process.

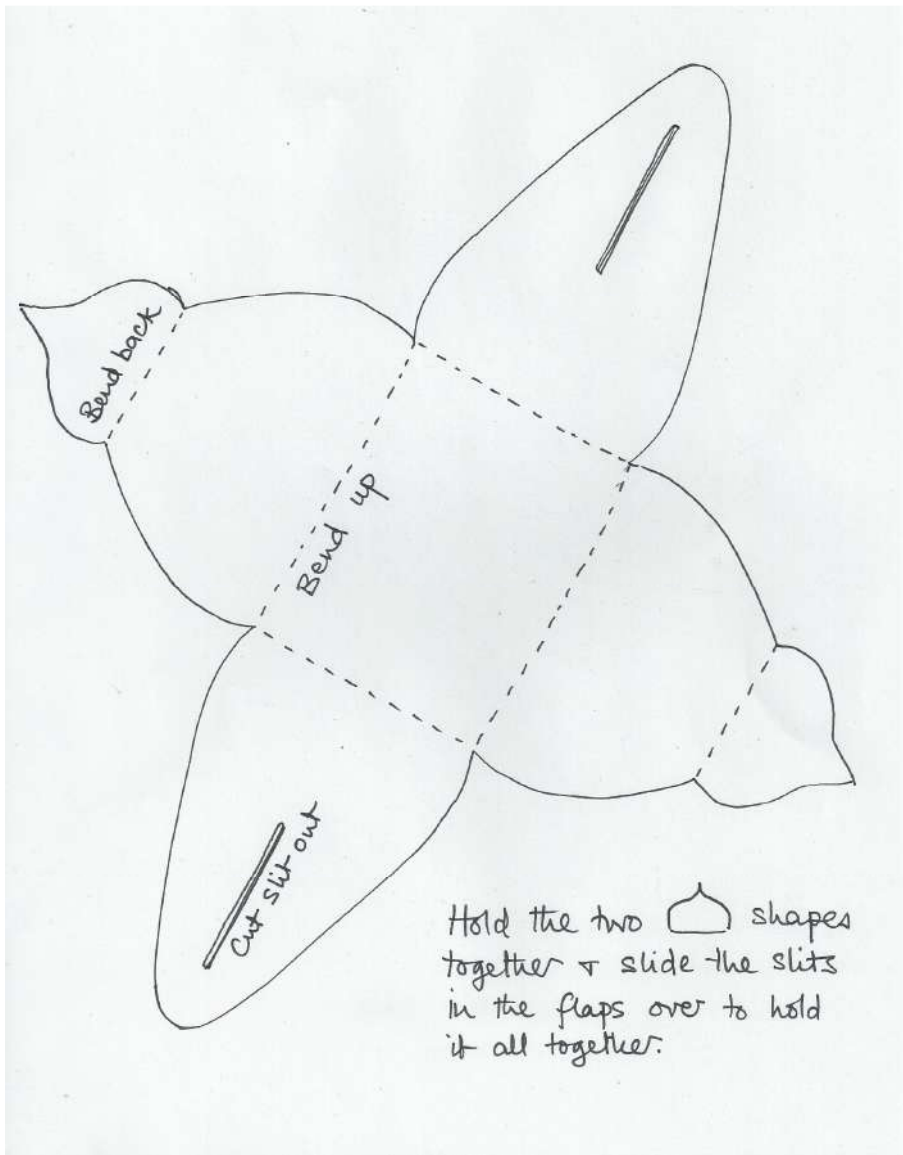




Boxes are good to decorate using collage. The mosaic box is a toddler sized shoe box, but you can buy card or wooden boxes of all shapes and sizes in craft shops including the Works. But any box will do – just cover or paint it up before you start.

The box with the flap standing proud is a very simple template (see next slide) which can be made of any thin card but is particularly successful using double sided craft paper. This one is patchwork collage. Draw round the edges with gold pen to finish them off nicely.





Feel free to copy this picture onto a sheet of A4. I use Word with 5mm margins, copy and paste the picture into the blank sheet. Then pull the picture corner out as big as it will go to fit and print it out. Make a card template from this copy.

If you need any advice or a copy of this powerpoint please email me – [ali.tebbs@gmail.com](mailto:ali.tebbs@gmail.com).

I have a Facebook page – Ali Tebbs Artist - where you can see more examples of my work