

Make a Painted Fabric Collage

Use fabric and clothing scraps to create an artwork with layers of texture

You Will Need

- Recycled cardboard base (cut apart a cardboard box to find a large rectangular section)
- Glue (preferably liquid)
- Tempera or acrylic paint, and a pallet or paper plate
- Brushes
- Cup of water
- Scraps of fabric, or old clothing items you are allowed to cut apart
- Scissors

GATHER! Collect your collage materials. Do you have leftover paper or fabric scraps from another project? Can you find an old newspaper or magazine to cut up? Is there a clothing item you're about to throw away? Ask an adult's permission to make sure you're allowed to use these things for art.

CUT! Carefully use your scissors to cut your fabric and paper into pieces. Is there an interesting seam or button on your piece of clothing? Does a scrap of fabric have a neat pattern? Do any pieces of text or numbers catch your eye? Be inspired by the features on your materials!

GLUE! Working on a protected surface, layer your fabric and paper onto your cardboard base. Use liquid glue to stick the materials to the base, then add more glue on top. Once dried, the glue will create a firm, textured surface.

PAINT! Use paint to add color! Experiment with what it feels like to paint on different textures. How is painting on a photo from a magazine different from painting on a shirt scrap?

KEEP GOING! After letting your collage dry, continue adding layers of paint, fabric, and paper.



Robert Rauschenberg (1925–2008), *Migration*, 1959.
Collage and oil paint on canvas (59.141).

Challenge Yourself!

Can you use one material in three different ways? Try creating three different kinds of textures using just glue and fabric!

Is there a story you can tell through your artwork? Try dividing your collage into multiple sections, using different colors, textures, and materials. See if each of these sections can tell part of the story.

What title will you give your artwork? Think about what your collage reminds you of.

Come back to your project after letting it dry for one day. Notice how the colors and textures have changed now that the piece is dry. What can you add to your artwork?