



megan coyle
artist & illustrator

Make a Self-Portrait Collage

Analyze Megan Coyle’s collage technique and take note of the characteristics that her collages share. Look closely at the colors she uses and the way she cuts the magazine strips. How does texture and color affect her work?

Plan to make a self-portrait collage using Megan Coyle’s “painting with paper” technique.

In order to work like Coyle, you must remember the following:

1) Look for different colors and textures in magazines.

You’ll focus on cutting out different shapes of color instead of entire objects from photographs or ads. *See the the collage below.*



2) Cut the paper into different geometric shapes that will represent highlights, shadows, and shifts in color.



Megan Coyle
The Artist from a Distance (detail)



Megan Coyle
Figure in front of Window (detail)



Megan Coyle
The New York Diner (detail)

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You will need: a mirror, thick drawing paper (like watercolor paper), pencil, eraser, magazines, scissors, glue stick, acrylic matte varnish (Liquitex), and paintbrushes

1. Using a mirror, sketch a self-portrait on the drawing paper. You will use a pencil and eraser so you can make revisions as you draw. The more detail you map out in this stage, the easier it will be when you start collaging magazine strips.
2. Remember to study your features. Pay close attention to the different shapes of shadows and highlights on your face.
3. Once your sketch is complete, begin paging through magazines to find colors and textures that you'll collage on top of your self-portrait drawing.
4. You can search for specific colors you want to use and tear out the pages of color to set aside before you begin collaging. Or you can look for colors as you cut and paste down pieces of paper.
5. Start cutting the magazine pages into geometric shapes. The shapes will be based on the different shapes you notice that make up the shadows and highlights on your face.
6. Glue down the shapes of paper. Coyle often collages paper on the background first so that the strips of paper that make up the foreground are layered on top of the magazine strips in the background.
7. Decide whether or not you'd like to cover the entire page with layered magazine strips. You can let the white of the page and underdrawing shine through a bit in different areas like Coyle did in her "Figure in front of the Window" portrait.
8. Continue to layer magazine strips until the collage is complete.
9. Using a paintbrush, add a coat of acrylic matte varnish on top of the magazine clippings. This will help hold the pieces of paper in place and also protect the artwork from UV-rays.