

# Make a Series of Abstract Collages

Abstract artwork focuses on color, line, shape, and form, instead of trying to create a realistic representation. When making abstract art, you can draw inspiration from the world around you. Take note of the colors and shapes you see, and then create a work of art that exaggerates or simplifies these elements.

Take a look at Megan Coyle's abstract collages. What techniques does she use? What colors does she use? How does she layer the paper? Does she use much texture?

You will make a series of abstract collages using several collage techniques that Coyle has used in her abstract work. In order to work like Coyle, remember the following:

- 1) Her abstract artwork uses solid, bright colors. Texture is scattered throughout the work, or is the dominant element.**
- 2) When working from life, she exaggerates the colors she sees and simplifies the shapes.**
- 3) She cuts or tears the magazine strips into simple, geometric shapes that represent the different shadows and highlights present in abstract compositions.**



Megan Coyle  
*Experiment - Nonobjective Art*  
(detail)



Megan Coyle  
*Bark* (detail)



Megan Coyle  
*Abstract Landscape* (detail)



megan coyle  
*artist & illustrator*

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

1. Decide on what collage technique you'd like to use for your abstract collage: working with fragments, simple shapes, patterns, or emphasizing the way you cut/tear the paper. Next, find a reference photograph or an object from life that you will work with. Focus on a specific area of texture on the object/photograph that you will use as your guide. Next, you can sketch the basic composition or layout of the collage on the drawing paper.
2. Begin paging through magazines to find colors and textures that you'll collage on top of your sketch, if you created one.
3. Cut or tear the magazine pages into different shapes or strips of paper. Remember that the shapes of paper are based on the different shapes of shadows and highlights that are visible in the photograph or object you're working from.
4. Glue down the shapes of paper.
5. Continue to layer magazine strips until the entire page is covered or until you feel the collage is complete.
6. 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.
7. Repeat steps 1 - 6 until you have completed at least three collages, using a different collage technique for each one.