

Painted Landscape Collage

A mini-workshop by

Tracy Algar



Painted Landscape Collage

| | |
|--|-----|
| Introduction..... | 3 |
| Materials..... | 4-6 |
| How to approach sketching..... | 7-9 |
| Collage making..... | 10 |
| Need more direction?..... | 11 |
| Creative community & staying in touch..... | 12 |

Painted Landscape Collage

This mini-workshop will give you an overview of the process and materials I use for making painted landscape collages.

The first part of the process is to go out and paint en plein air (outdoors in the landscape).

The second part of the process is recomposing the sketches you made en plein air into collage landscapes back in the studio.

What appeals to me about this process is that it gives me the freedom to play without expectation and to express the experience of being in the landscape, without getting serious about compositions while I'm out there.

Materials List

This is a list of suggested art materials for making painted landscape collage. As you will be working outside for the first part of the workshop, try to keep your kit minimal. [See my full plein air painting toolkit here.](#)

Paper

Cartridge paper - 200gsm weight. Paper that is thinner than this will buckle too much and collapse under the wet media we will be using. It doesn't matter too much about what size, I usually buy a ream of A2 and then either use it full size or tear it down to A3 or A4. You can buy A4 cartridge paper in a pad.

Paint

Heavy body acrylic paint in earthy and natural colours. Suggested colours (*note: you don't need all of these, start with just a few*): iron oxide black, Payne's grey, titanium white, raw umber, burnt sienna, Prussian blue, French ultramarine, permanent sap green, pale olive green, chrome green light, titanium buff, cadmium yellow deep, cadmium yellow hue.

Materials List

Brushes & Tools

My favourite brush (and usually the only one I take out with me) is a Taklon Round 12.

One or two palette knives (metal ones).

A fish knife (optional).

Other Mark Making Materials

PITT oil base pencil - soft

Water soluble wax pastels (optional)

Watercolour pencils in a few colours, e.g. ivory black, prussian blue, deep cadmium, orange chrome, golden brown.

Other Bits and Pieces

A spray bottle for water

A water container for cleaning brushes

A few small containers for mixing paint

A palette for mixing paint

Materials List

Collage Making Stuff

Acrylic gel medium

A stiff brush for applying gel medium

A straight edge (for tearing)

You do not need to take this stuff out into the landscape with you to make sketches.

How to approach sketching

Preparation to go out

I like to use a backpack to carry my plein air painting kit.

Think about your comfort while you are out there. Do you need sunscreen, a hat, a jacket? Are you happy to sit on the floor or will you take a camping stool?

It can be helpful to have something to attach your paper to, so consider a light drawing board, bulldog clips to stop things blowing away, maybe a light fold-up easel.

Mindset

Go out with the intention of having fun and playing.

Don't aim to come back with a finished painting.

How to approach sketching

Sketching

Make yourself comfortable and take a look around at your landscape.

Using paint and water, begin to make marks on your page to represent aspects of the landscape that draw you in.

Respond to what strikes you about the landscape.

Don't try to make a "pretty picture" and get the whole landscape onto one sheet of paper.

Alternative between using paint mixed with water, or straight out of the tube.

Use your spray bottle of water to get the paint to run and drip.

How to approach sketching

Use your palette knife to scratch through the wet paint.

Use other mark-making tools, pencils, pastels etc. to draw through the wet paint or over the dry paint.

Don't labour over it. When you start thinking too much, move to the next piece of paper, pick another view of the landscape and get to work again.

Make as many painted sketches as you like, but try for at least 4-6 to have something to work with when you get back to the studio.

Collage making

Approach the collage making part of the process playfully.

In the comfort of your studio, it's time to recompose your sketches.

Work on a table (you are going to need a fair bit of space).

Using a ruler or straight edge is one way of tearing.

Freestyle tearing (no straight edge) gives interesting effects.

Stick down the torn pieces of sketches to another sheet of cartridge paper with acrylic gel medium.

Watch my collage making process on [YouTube](#).

Creative Community & Keeping in Touch

Join [my Facebook group](#) to share your experiences, learn from each other and enjoy looking at others' work.

You can post any questions you have in the Facebook group where either I or someone else in the community will help you as best we can.

Alternatively, you can contact me via email:
hello@tracyalgar.co.za

Copyright © 2010 by Tracy Algar

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, distributed, or transmitted in any form or by any means, including photocopying, recording, or other electronic or mechanical methods, without prior written permission.