

Exercise: collage/photomontage

Please make your photomontages a maximum of 11" x 8½" so you can scan the images easily. I would also suggest a minimum size of 5½" x 8½"—half a sheet of regular copy paper. Cardstock works well as a backing paper.



*Mona Bricolage, Post Modern Artist
Ruth Meredith
2010*

COLLAGE/PHOTOMONTAGE PROCESS

1. Leaf through magazines and any image that catches your attention should be torn out and put in a pile (tear out the entire page). Give yourself a time limit for completing this step in order to discourage reading rather than ripping. Stop when you have about 20 images. [Note: because I am limiting the size, you only need about half this number.]
2. Go through the pile of torn out pages and decide what part of the image is important. Cut that and only that part of the image out. Assembling the images will be easier if you avoid leaving the pictures in their original (usually rectangular) format. Irregular shapes go together better than geometric ones.
3. Choose one image to use as a starting point. Begin to add other images to this central image. **DO NOT START TO GLUE THE PIECES UNTIL YOU HAVE TRIED AS MANY DIFFERENT POSSIBILITIES AS YOU CAN.** This step will be much easier if you have a variety of sizes (some large, some small) and start with one of the larger images.
4. When you have found the arrangement that ‘feels right,’ then and only then start gluing the pieces together. It helps to glue smaller pieces on top to the larger pieces underneath and then gluing the larger pieces to the backing — the reverse of the process of laying them out.