

LEARNING TO TELL A STORY WITH VISUALS

EXERCISE: CREATE YOUR OWN COLLAGE SELF-PORTRAIT

GETTING STARTED

TELLING A STORY IS PAINTING A PICTURE.
EACH WORD A BRUSHSTROKE.
IN A COLLAGE EACH PIECE,
EACH ELEMENT, COLOR,
IS A BRUSHSTROKE !

1) DECIDE ON YOUR STORY

Your Story Can Be As Simple As (pick one):

WHEN I -- laughed – loved – discovered – escaped –
wept – had my breakthrough – became a parent – was
surrounded by nature – yelled on a roller coaster –
turned into a superhero – angel – basketball player !
(You can change or discard your story later, but start with one.)

2) PICK THREE PICTURES OF YOURSELF

It can be different ages. You can be in the shadows,
or it can be your backside ! Keep the pics out where
you can look at them as ideas incubate. Then select
your self-portrait picture - or use all 3 ! (copies to cut)

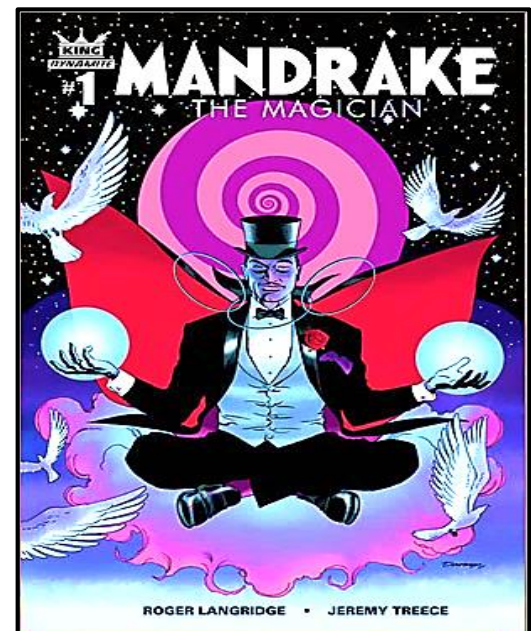
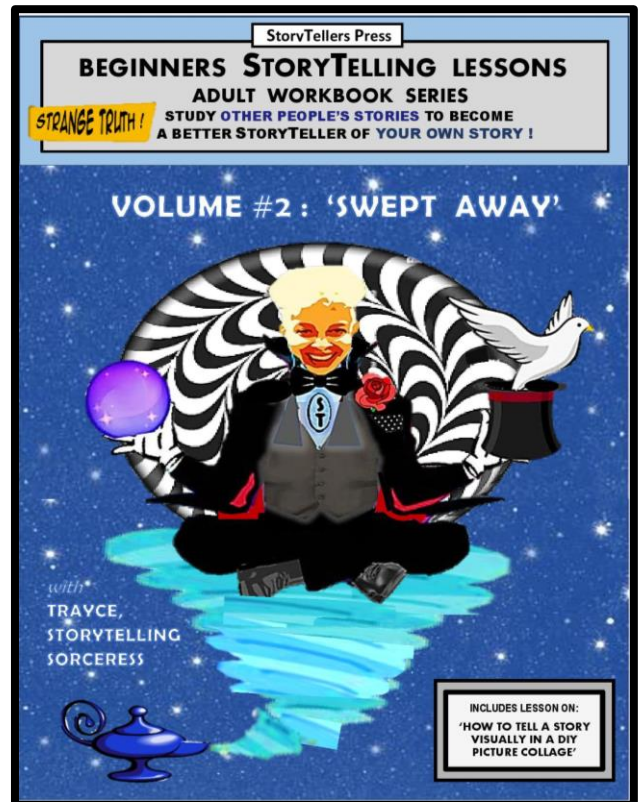
- 3) FIND YOUR INSPIRATION Pick a picture that fits your story --- a painting, comic cover, photo, or ad.
4) PLAY AROUND BEFORE YOU GLUE ! Add feathers/ ribbon/wire/etc. ! Move the pieces, angle or layer them. Use rolled tape on the back to keep pieces in place. You can also draw or paint images and colors.

THE INSPIRATION FOR MY SELF-PROTRAIT COLLAGE

The inspiration for my 'Swept Away' cover above is the 'Mandrake' comic cover to the right. I cut out the body and transformed it with (17) changes ! Compare the two floating bodies. Can you list all the differences ? (Answers on next page) How did I change the setting ?

HEY -- IT'S OK !

FYI: Academy Award winning director Martin Scorsese won his Best Director and Picture Oscars for 'THE DEPARTED' (2006), a remake of 'INTERNAL AFFAIRS' (2002), a Hong Kong thriller. Scorsese's film 'CAPE FEAR' (1991) is also a remake -- of the (1962) film 'CAPE FEAR.' Scorsese, with his creative team, took the inspiration and template of existing films and added new personality, rhythms, history, dialogue, and colors. Often artists (including singers) create their own originals by standing on the shoulders of the originals that inspired them !



Mandrake Comic, Cover Art by Jeremy Treece
Available at Dynamite.com: <https://rb.gv/vi5ww>

CREATE YOUR OWN COLLAGE SELF-PORTRAIT



RESOURCES & TOOLS

Put 'Collage Art Images' in an internet search window and you'll get an endless page of images that link to sites with more collages! For more ideas instead put 'Classic Comic Book Covers' in the search window, and be more specific by putting in a type of comic book – like 'Spiderman' or 'Fantasy' or 'Betty Boop'!

I suggest you start primitive with actual cutting and pasting and gluing, rather than trying a digital collage (even if you're great on the computer). Touching different textures, having to carefully direct the point of the scissors, that kind of going slow is good for warming up the creative process when you're a beginner!

INVEST \$200 AND GET SERIOUS

- Colored markers / pens / kid's paint set / sharp scissors / glue
- Heavy construction paper to paste on
- Big envelopes to store images / objects you collect for your collage
- Color HP printer under \$100
- HP Instant Ink plan - \$6 mth for 100 pages (they send ink before you run out, must be connected to internet)
- Ream of copy paper (500 pages)

NOTE: I recommend HP printer / ink because I use it. Other brands could be as good.

(17) CHANGES TO BODY

- 1) New shoes
- 2) Changed vest color
- 3) Made vest thicker and gave lines for breasts
- 4) Glowing vest lapels
- 5) Darkened jacket lapels
- 6) New bowtie
- 7) New rose
- 8) New pocket handkerchief
- 9) ST emblem on shirt
- 10) Made shoulders narrower
- 11) Got rid of (3) rings around neck
- 12) Got rid of head
- 13) Put my head on
- 14) New hands
- 15) Purple globe in hand
- 16) Hat in hand
- 17) Bird coming out of hat

NOTE: For every new piece I added I had to decide exactly where to place it, and some things I colored or cut at an angle. **PLUS** I created an entirely new setting to put the body in!

CREATING A STORY FOR THE COLLAGE

I'd given this Workbook Volume the title 'Swept Away', and I named my collage alter ego 'The StoryTelling Sorceress'. So I found an inspirational picture that had those vibes. Then I decided to go all out as a sorceress and be emerging from a genie's lamp! Rather than 'swept away', my character was more 'swept up'. I'm a magician for the good, so I had a white dove fly out of my hat! As I want my 'magic' to be warm and welcoming, I chose a picture of me smiling and then brightened it to make it beam light!



TECHNIQUE EXAMPLES

HOW TO CHANGE THE STORY

I might decide to reuse the shape of my body from above for a new collage. I could decide the story is that I am sitting cross-legged on a blanket meditating. The new setting could be a sandy beach with waves lapping at my feet --- or I could make the setting a lush green forest or a colorful flower garden!

I'll replace the tux with a hoodie sweatshirt by finding a picture of a hoodie worn on a body and cutting it into a shape that fits my body. If I need to, I can make new hands and arms that are folded in a meditative position by finding online a picture of hands and arms in the desired position, then adding colored paper as sleeves over the arms to match the color of the hoodie.

I'll put a new picture of my head on after I add the new clothing, so it looks like my head is sitting in the neck of the hoodie. In the new picture my eyes will be closed. Should I look relaxed or intense? I'll try pictures of me both ways!