LEARN TO TELL A STORY WITH VISUALS

EXERCISE: CREATE YOUR OWN COLLAGE SELF-PORTRAIT

GETTING STARTED

WHAT IS A COLLAGE ? It's visual cut and paste art that combines all different kinds of materials to create a new image that conveys a message, or idea, or energy. Collages can also be composed digitally on the computer.

StoryTellers Press
BEGINNERS STORYTELLING LESSONS
ADULT WORKBOOK SERIES
STRANGE TRUTH ! **STUDY OTHER PEOPLE'S STORIES TO BECOME A BETTER STORYTELLER OF YOUR OWN STORY !**

VOLUME #2 : 'SWEPT AWAY'

with
TRAYCE,
STORYTELLING
SORCERESS

INCLUDES LESSON ON:
'HOW TO TELL A STORY
VISUALLY IN A DIY
SELF=PORTRAIT
PICTURE COLLAGE'

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 !

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.
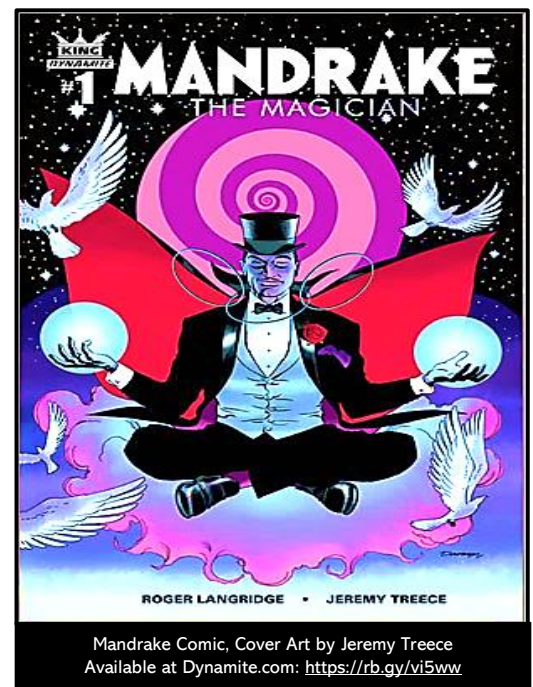
THE INSPIRATION FOR MY SELF-PROTRAIT COLLAGE

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 !

KING DYNAMITE #1 MANDRAKE THE MAGICIAN

ROGER LANGRIDGE • JEREMY TREECE

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

MANDRAKE
THE MAGICIAN
#1

ROGER LANGRIDGE • JEREMY TREECE

RESOURCES & TOOLS

Put 'Collage Art Images' in an internet search window and get endless images that link to sites with more collages. Or put 'Classic Comic Book Covers' in the search window (and be more specific and put in 'Spiderman' or 'Fantasy') to find images that inspire and intrigue you. Your collage picture can be bizarre or abstract or funny and still tell a story.

I mostly now do digital collages on the computer. But I started with cutting and pasting and gluing collages. Touching different textures, having to carefully direct the point of the scissors – that textile interaction with materials can inspire the creative process.

One resource I find crucial for both cut and paste collages and digital collages is a printer. For cut and paste, I can print infinite images from online to incorporate in my collage. When I do a digital collage I like to print out copies of it as a work-in-progress and pin to the wall to view and help me incubate ideas. You can get a printer for under $100. And if connected to the internet you can get discounted ink plans. They send new ink cartridges before you run out, so you don't have to think about it. For example HP Instant Ink has a $7 a month plan for 100 pages. (Plus buying paper.)

(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 colorized or cut at an angle. **PLUS** I created an entirely new setting to put the body in !

CREATING A STORY FOR THE COLLAGE

I wanted to create a cover for Volume #2 of my StoryTellers Workbook Series, which I titled 'SWEPT AWAY'. I named my collage alter ego 'The StoryTelling Sorceress'. 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 is more 'swept up'. I'm a Sorceress for the good, so I had a white dove fly out of my hat ! 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 !

StoryTellers Press
BEGINNERS STORYTELLING LESSONS
ADULT WORKBOOK SERIES
STRANGE TRUTH !
STUDY OTHER PEOPLE'S STORIES TO BECOME A BETTER STORYTELLER OF YOUR OWN STORY !

VOLUME #2 : 'SWEPT AWAY'

with
TRAYCE,
STORYTELLING
SORCERESS

INCLUDES LESSON ON:
'HOW TO TELL A STORY VISUALLY IN A DIY SELF-PORTRAIT PICTURE COLLAGE'

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 !