

CRAFTING COMMUNITIES

SINCE 2020



COLLAGE PROJECT

For this project, you will *browse* or *search* a modern periodical (published circa 1850 to 1950) to learn about the visual culture of modern life; examine the modern strategy of scrapbook and the modernist strategy of collage; and then create a collage based on your findings.

By completing this assignment, you will:

- a) develop skills in primary source literacy;
- b) engage with the visual culture of modern life; and
- c) reflect on scrapbooking and collage as critical strategies.

Final submission includes: a) Your collage; b) A written critical reflection (500-750 words, 1.5- or double-spaced) that includes citations demonstrating your engagement with course resources; and c) a works cited page that includes your source material (i.e. pages from periodicals & other sources) and cited course materials.

Instructions:

Step 1. Complete the workshop “Using Databases to Explore Modern Print Media.”

Browse or search a historical periodical, and choose at least 5 pages to look at closely. Consider what you have learned about modern visual culture through this exercise.

[Students completed this step for your critical reflection on 19th-C Pictorial Print and Media Literacy.]

Step 2. Engage with historical practices of scrapbooking and collage.

What makes these practices “modern” and/or “modernist”?

Step 3. Create a collage (it’s up to you what you want to call it!)

Use your historical materials to create a collage that responds in some way to the historical examples we have looked at in class. This might mean replicating one particular type of collage using your own materials, or it might mean devising your own strategy and considering how it compares to the examples we have seen in class.

You are welcome to use any kinds of materials for your project (historical or contemporary). I would like to see some of the materials from “Step 1” included here; if you do not use them (and this is not a strict requirement), please explain why not as part of your reflection.

Additional Resource: “[Collage Making Tips](#),” prepared by University of Alberta Augustana student and artist Anne Mirejovsky (Class of 2021)

Step 4. Write your Critical Reflection

The critical reflection should bring together your hands-on collage activity with our course readings. Work towards answering the following questions:

- What have you learned about modern visual culture and modern art, and particularly about the strategy of collage from this project? Consider what you have learned from course resources and from hands-on making and how these relate to one another.
- In what way(s) does your collage convey what you have learned? (As discussed, you are not evaluated on your ability to communicate visually or create an aesthetically-successful work of art! You might just use your collage as a jumping off point for discussion, and that’s fine! Or you might find that you end up making an argument in your collage, and you can use the reflection to explain that argument in words.)

Engage with at least TWO course readings, chosen from the following:

1. Etgar, “On Edge: Exploring Collage Tactics and Terminology”;
2. Crawford, “Trans Formations”
3. Hedley, excerpt from *Making Pictorial Print*
4. Barker & Jane on Modernism (pp. 219-223)

Also consider engaging with the following resources:

- a) “*Yes, This is My Album*”: *Victorian Collections of Scraps, Signatures, and Seaweeds*, 2021, University of Victoria Libraries Digital Exhibits
- b) One of the selected items from *Victorian Things* listed on the syllabus
- c) “Victorian Scrapbooking,” [Crafting Communities website](#), 2021.