

Craft Kit #36 - Collage of Ordinary Scenes



Skip Hill & Letitia Huckaby
**My Soul Looks Back and
Wonder How I Got Over**

April 2 - June 20, 2021

108 CONTEMPORARY

Art. Craft. Design.

Welcome to 108|Contemporary!

We are a non-profit gallery in Tulsa, Oklahoma that specializes in contemporary craft. From April 2 through June 20, 2021 we have an exhibition called *My Soul Looks Back and Wonder How I Got Over*, by artists Skip Hill and Letitia Huckaby. Let's look at the exhibition before we make a collage inspired by the pieces we see there.

On the way we'll ask ourselves some questions. There are no wrong answers! When you view fine art and craft, your experience will be unique and personal. Perhaps the person next to you will have different answers to the same questions. By hearing each other's perspectives, we may find new and exciting ways to interpret each work.

- “How I Got Over” is a gospel song made famous by Mahalia Jackson. If you read the lyrics or listen to the song, how does that change your view of this exhibition?

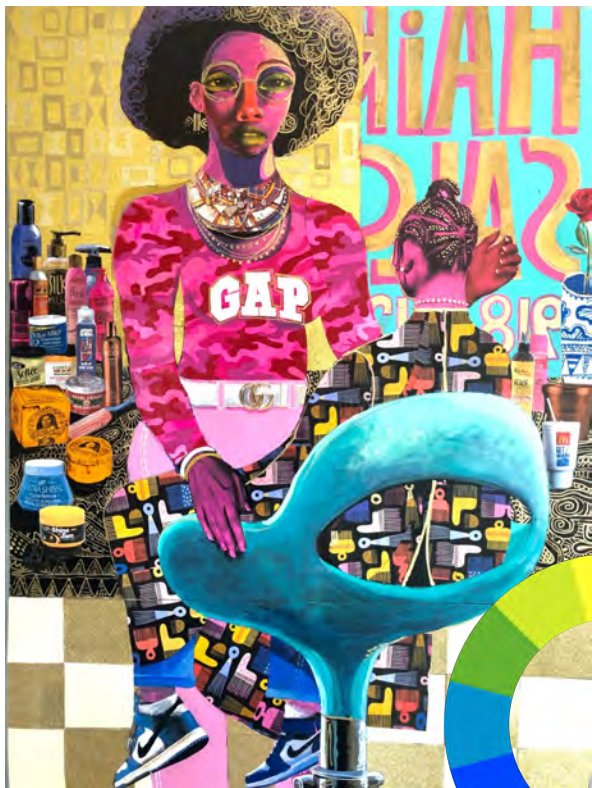


Who is Skip Hill?

Skip Hill is full-time artist and illustrator. He works in collage. He uses images from magazines, prints photos from his phone or the internet, finds interesting paper and cardstock to cut and glue on his collages. He also paints and draws on his pieces.

- Have you ever done collage?
- What could be an advantage of collaging an art piece instead of painting or drawing?
- What might be challenging about creating collage?





Beauty Shop Aria (for Mabel Little)



Hill says that “collage is like completing a puzzle that you’re creating as you go.” He’s most interested in creating balance in his pieces. He does this by contrasting warm and cool colors, rough and smooth textures, and shiny and dull surfaces.

Skip Hill talks about using the color wheel to balance his art, as well.

- Where can you see the balance of cool and warm colors?
- Where can you see the balance of rough and smooth textures?



Who is Letitia Huckaby?

Letitia Huckaby is a photographer and multimedia artist who combines photography with fabric and embroidery. She sometimes prints her photos onto vintage textiles like flour sacks or old sheets.



- What about this piece seems familiar to you? What seems strange or unusual?
- Why do you think the artist uses fabric and quilting hoops as display for her photography? Why not print the photograph on paper and use a regular picture frame?

For the *My Soul Looks Back and Wonder How I Got Over* exhibition, Huckaby created a series of new works. She used two neighborhood streets—one in Tulsa, Oklahoma near historic Greenwood, and one on St. Charles Street in Greenwood, Mississippi where her father was born. She went to both places, took pictures, then printed them on fabric and framed them on embroidery hoops. Huckaby says “this project is about home and connectedness,” and the idea of people building a home of their own.

- What is a diptych? Why do you think Huckaby chose this format for her pieces?
- What tale is being told to you by this series of photographs?
- What questions do you have for the artist?
What questions do you have about each Greenwood?



Collage of Everyday Scenes Step-by-Step Instructions

Skip Hill likes to make ordinary events special by turning them into art. In the book *Opal's Greenwood Oasis* we see the main character describe very ordinary things like eating breakfast, riding her bicycle, and helping her mother. Skip Hill combines collage, drawing, and painting to illustrate Opal's day.

Let's use this technique to recreate something we do almost every day. It could be feeding a goldfish, washing dishes, brushing your teeth, or even playing a video game. What can you make special by capturing it in collage?



Materials

Collage can use so many kinds of materials that it can be hard to know where to start! In this slideshow you'll see collages from two different people who used slightly different materials. Here's a list of their must-haves:

- Paper, cardstock, or cardboard base
- Glue stick, white glue, or Modge Podge
- Finger paint, crayons, colored pencils, or markers
- Pen or pencil
- Scissors
- Images to cut out (they used a magazine and printed some pictures from the internet)
- Paint brushes

Han is also using plastic beads, while Elisabeth is also using yarn.





Han is making an outdoor scene and gluing down blue construction paper to create the sky.

Elisabeth is making an indoor scene. She is painting yellow onto cardstock as the wall color.



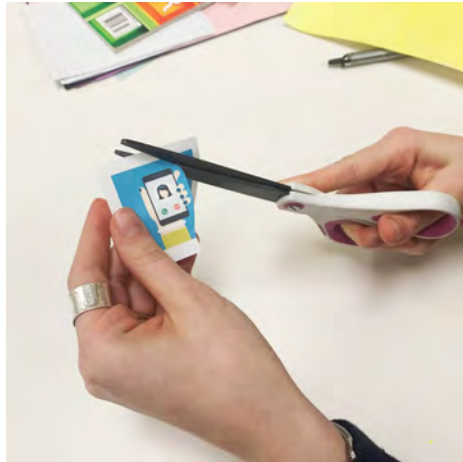
Step One: Laying the Background

Start with the background of your collage. If your scene is indoors, the background may be the walls or ceiling, or if outside you may be collaging or drawing buildings, grass, or sky. How can you create a balance of colors and textures?



Han is cutting white clouds out of construction paper.

Elisabeth is cutting out a photo of a hand holding a cellphone, which she found online and printed.



Step Two: Cut Out Images

Start adding in the images you collected for your collage.

Step Three: Paste Collage Elements

Use a glue stick to attach these images. Don't worry too much if you can't cut out every detail, or if you accidentally cut too much! You can always add more or cover up edges with collage and your hand drawn elements.



Han is gluing down printed photos of flowers.



Elisabeth is gluing down printed photos of windows and a couch.

Step Four: Draw or Paint

Once your cut out images are in place, draw or paint the parts of your scene for which you don't have images. You can also decorate the images you glued in order to make them look more like what you see every day.



Han is painting a path through the park and adding some texture with green grass.



Elisabeth is drawing a cartoon self-portrait with black pen.



Han is gluing down some colorful beads as flowers.



Elisabeth is making a rug with yarn and painting it gray.

Step Five: Add Unconventional Materials

Add some unique or 3-dimensional materials to add interest and texture to your collage.

Step Six: Repeat Steps 2, 3, & 4

Take a step back and look at your collage. What other details can you add with cut out images or by drawing and painting? How will you add contrast? How will you balance colors and textures?



Han is cutting out and gluing down human silhouettes with black construction paper.

Elisabeth is painting certain elements, such as the floor, clothing and hair to add contrast. She's also outlining some objects with a black pen and drawing in curtains.



You Did It!

How do you feel about the puzzle you created as you went along? Post your collage on social media and tag @108contemporary with the hashtag #108craftkits!



Other Resources

- **Other Craft Kits**
 - <https://108contemporary.org/craft-kits/>
- **Skip Hill Artist Interview**
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c8T8N1Z8WYg>
- **Letitia Huckaby Artist Interview**
 - TBA
- ***Opal's Greenwood Oasis* in Tulsa Library Catalogue**
 - <https://tccl.bibliocommons.com/item/show/5306386063>