

Collage Masterclass with Zara the Zebra

Learning objective: To understand the techniques, history, and artistic principles of collage to create complex, multi-layered compositions.

Use these flashcards to revise key terminology and theoretical concepts behind collage. Zara the Zebra wants you to think deeply about how textures and materials work together.

What is a collage?

An artistic technique where various materials like paper, photographs, fabric, and found objects are glued onto a backing surface to create a new composition.

Define 'Juxtaposition' in the context of art.

Placing two or more contrasting elements side-by-side to highlight their differences or create a surprising visual effect.

What is 'Mixed Media' in a collage?

A piece of art that uses a variety of different materials—such as paint, ink, fabric, and plastic—rather than relying on just one medium.

Explain the purpose of 'Overlaying' in collage.

Placing one material on top of another to create depth, hide parts of the background, or reveal layers of meaning through transparency.

What are 'Found Objects' (or *Objet Trouvé*)?

Natural or man-made items, such as leaves, ticket stubs, or buttons, that were not originally created for art but are repurposed into a piece.

Define 'Photomontage'.

A specific type of collage made primarily from cut-up and rearranged photographs to create a new, often surreal, image.

What is the difference between collage and assemblage?

Collage is generally two-dimensional and flat, whereas assemblage is three-dimensional and involves attaching objects to a base so they protrude into space.

How does 'Unity' affect a collage?

Unity is the principle that ensures all the different fragments of a collage feel as though they belong together, creating a cohesive final piece.

Explain why an artist might choose to use 'ephemeral' materials.

Ephemeral materials are temporary (like newspaper or dried flowers); using them can represent the passing of time or the fragility of the subject matter.

What is negative space in a collage?

The empty areas around or between the pieces of collage material that help to balance the composition and prevent it from feeling cluttered.

Justify why texture is important in a collage.

Texture adds sensory interest and visual weight; by combining rough, smooth, matte, and glossy materials, an artist can control where the viewer's eye travels.

What might happen if a collage lacks a clear focal point?

Without a focal point, the viewer's eye may wander aimlessly, making the artwork feel chaotic or confusing rather than intentional.