

# DISCOVER COLLAGRAPHS



## The Basics of Collagraphs

Collagraphs are prints created by inking and printing collages. Collages are typically created by cutting, tearing and pasting photographs and paper to create a picture. Collagraphs use a wider variety of materials to create interesting textures and images. Collagraphs are sometimes referred to as 'junk drawer prints' because the materials you use may be common, everyday items just laying around your house!

## How to Create Collagraphs

To create a successful collagraph, you have to glue or secure objects onto a flat piece of wood, a paper plate or cardboard. I like to use cereal boxes, but you can use almost anything. Here's some things you will need:

- Collagraph board (Cardboard, paper plate, or wood)
- Glue (Liquid glue recommended)
- Found objects
- Paper
- Foam roller, rolling pin, or paper towel roll
- Paint
- Paintbrush (optional)



**Found Objects:** Found objects are things that you can use to create your collagraph. It's great to find objects with interesting textures. Some examples include paper, newspaper, bottle caps, food wrappers, cardboard, and scraps of fabric or yarn and beads. You can also use objects from nature, like leaves, twigs, and grass. Objects like old keys, coins, chains, or metal scraps can also be interesting.

**Paint:** You have a few options for paint with your collagraphs. At the museum we prefer Crayola Washable paint or Tempera paint. However, you can use Acrylic, gouache, or even wall paint. Watercolor paint is not recommended as it does not have great results- but it can be fun to experiment.

**Paper:** You can use almost any paper for collagraphs. Printer paper or drawing paper is a great option, but in a pinch you can use newspaper, wrapping paper, or any other kind of paper you can find at home.

# COLLAGRAPH PRINTING: STEP BY STEP

To see the making of a collagraph print, watch here: <https://youtu.be/SaSKKg-igNU>

Remember, Collagraphs are created by texture. It's okay if your collagraph plate is not pretty to look at. Trust how it feels with your fingers instead of your eyes.

1. Create your idea. Think of the picture you want to create. It might be helpful to do a sketch of a drawing.
2. Find your collagraph plate. You are going to use your collagraph plate as your base to glue everything down on. Cereal boxes or cardboard make a great plate.
3. Glue down your found objects. You can go for an abstract design, or use your found objects to make an image. It's important to use enough glue. Leave your collagraph board to dry.
4. Apply your paint. If you have a roller or a rolling pin, use that. You can wrap your rolling pin in tinfoil or paper for easy clean up. If you do not have a rolling pin or a roller, you can use a paper towel or toilet paper roll. Thinly roll out your paint onto your textures. If the roller is not working for you, you may use a paintbrush to dab on paint.
5. Press paper on top of your painted collagraph board. Gently rub and peel paper away and *voila*, you have created your collagraph.



*Collagraph Examples*

*Cleanup Tips: You can leave your paint to dry on your plate and re-use it with different colors. Use warm water, soap and a sponge to clean off your other tools.*