

WWCC workshop: Shero portraits: collage/mixed media on canvas



2 sessions, Monday April 13 and Monday April 20, 2015

4:30-7:30pm, 3 hrs each

15 participants – 5 adolescents, 10 older adults

by: Carolyn Ellen Beattie

Objectives:

- Learn about inspirational artist Aminah Robinson and practice her collage approach to portraiture
- make an artwork using accessible materials and simple but effective techniques, build on visual arts knowledge and vocabulary and develop personal visual language
- learn colour mixing ~ portraiture/ skin tones
- develop self-confidence, personal insight and share personal stories with the group building a sense of community
- inter-generational interaction: embrace a unique and special opportunity to connect and build understanding about women's experiences across generations and cultures
- have fun ~ share in and enjoy a multi-sensory art-making experience

Materials: Aminah Robinson- books (symphonic poem) and digital resources, GAL info., colour wheel book, papers for sketching, pencils, canvases 16x24 \$ store 2 bucks each, variety of printed and textured fabrics, wool, buttons, other lightweight collage materials, cheesecloth, weldbond glue, hefty scissors, acrylic paints, fluid matte gel medium, glue brushes and paint brushes, palettes, glue

cups, water cups, smocks, plastic table cloths (buy at \$ store), plastic bags for participants to store materials for next week

Pre-workshop Prep: find hefty scissors, get canvases and plastic tablecloths, cheesecloth at dollar store, maybe more weldbond and red acryl. paint, collect some extra fabrics/collage materials, cut smaller swatches of material, 15 sm. plastic bags, glue cups, gather all listed materials (minus what is already at WWCC)

Session 1

Prep:

Test projector/ powerpoint, cover tables,

-on materials table: canvases, collage materials, scissors, glue brushes, gluecups, water cups, smocks

-on tables: pencils, and sketch paper

Meet and Greet: 15 mins introduce ourselves, GAL courses and pass out info.

-participants each say name and what colour and texture suits your mood today. What colour/texture are you feeling and why?

Intro/Inspiration: 30 mins

A word about special mutli-generational group- special opportunity to learn about each others diverse experiences, learn about and respect/celebrate differences, and similarities, share stories from your lives and the lives of women that inspire you

-intro project and Aminah Robinson

-show video, powerpoint, images from book "Symphonic Poem"

-ask participants about their response to the work

-discuss Aminah's approach- content/meaning and technical approach- making images using found materials- materials are rich with personal meaning and Aminah creates stories using collage- resourcefulness; celebrating the potential in everyday materials to inspire art

-focus on texture and colour

-show and tell about process

-think of who you would like to portray? Someone from public life- artist, activist, cultural figure from history/herstory/ contemp culture, or someone from your life, what about this person inspires you? How would you like to represent her? Portrait or full figure or even still life/landscape or action pose, what memories/ using all senses- images, textures, smells, sounds, feelings do you have of moments when you admired this person?

-brainstorm/ sketch on paper then canvas collage/ paint

-demo canvas sketch and collage process

Action: 2hrs

- pass out papers and pencils- sketch
- teachers help participants think of a subject- questioning participants, guiding in ideas for representing this person
- basic sketch on canvas- simple contour line, details can be filled in with collage and paint
- visit materials table and gather what you like
- pass out SMOCKS, scissors, glue cups, glue brushes, water cups, paper towel
- collage- glue brushes in water cups when not using them, blot brush with paper towel and put glue brush in soapy watercup immediately when finished
- pause for **painting demo** once collage phase is well underway- question participants re: colour mixing, use colour wheel book, show mixing skin tones
- demo glazing using medium (good for over fabric if you want a pattern to show through)
- participants prep palette, get brush and water cup when they are ready, keep collaging and painting at the same time

Clean-up: 10 mins

- leave work flat to dry, collect scrap collage materials and toss or save, participants save materials in plastic bag for use next week, wash all palettes and brushes, cap and pack paints, leave collage materials at WWCC, bring paint, glue, mediums and brushes back to LVK

Reflection/Closure: 5 mins

- find a partner or neighbor (hopefully someone you don't already know) and introduce yourself and your shero to one another
- how are you finding the process? Did you come across any challenges? How did you work through challenges, find solutions? Think about directions for next week, maybe bring in some special materials from home
- reminder about GAL courses sign-up process

Session 2 (stay tuned....)

Prep: copy GAL class forms (devon), supplies from GAL space (erica) paint, glue/gluecups, fluid gel medium, weldbond, brushes, perhaps some small pieces of mayfair paper for participants to use if they finish early, print copies of facial proportion sheet and lesson plan (Carolyn)

Meet and Greet: 15 mins introduce ourselves, GAL courses and pass out info.

- participants each say name and what colour and texture suits your mood today. What colour/texture are you feeling and why?

Intro/Inspiration: 15 mins Intro project for new participants-

- gather new participants at side room to watch Aminah presentation/ look at book as others continue on collage
- ask participants from last week to help teach about Aminah Robinson and to help explain activity

- follow inspiration procedure from session 1 but be brief
- demo collage and painting processes
- show option for if you finish your canvas- work on a greeting card with paint/collage on Mayfair paper

Action: 2 hrs 5 mins

- new participants work on sketch and then canvas- draw, collage, paint
- participants from last week work on in-progress collage- adding paint and more collage items
- work on a greeting card if you finish early

Clean-up: 10 mins

Reflection/Closure: 15 mins

- take a moment to congratulate participants and celebrate their work as a group
- find a partner or neighbor (hopefully someone you don't already know) and introduce yourself and your shero to one another -How did you choose to represent your inspirational person? What details did you include that tell us about this person and why they inspire you?
- how did you find the process? Did you come across any challenges? How did you work through challenges, find solutions? Are you pleased with your work?
- If there is time, each participant presents their partner's work to the group
- Discussion about personal art practice- do you have a space at home you can set up for your art? What can you do to help make space and time for you to make art?
- reminder about GAL courses sign-up process

-Thank you all so much!