

BAM | BOISE ART MUSEUM

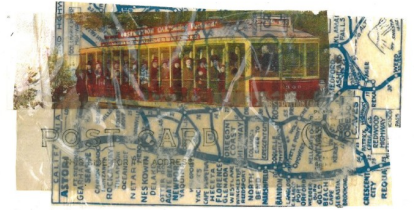
MAKE-IT ACTIVITY: Image Transfer

Introduction

In this Make-It Activity, students will learn how to make artwork using a simple image transfer method. Students will use clear packaging tape and water to remove toner from a printed image. The resulting transparent image can be layered with other images and paint to create a work of art. While there are many techniques and processes to transfer images, this particular method involves simple steps and materials that are easy to find.

Materials

- Clear packaging tape or clear contact paper
- Paper, canvas or other material for surface of artwork
- Container to hold water
- Scissors
- Glue
- Gel Medium
- Paint brushes
- Paint, sandpaper or other materials to alter images
- Bone folder, wooden spoon or other flat object for burnishing (optional)
- Printed images from printer or
- Copier that uses toner (images from an inkjet printer will not work)
- Images from newspapers or magazines



Artwork made from layered images

Instructions

Have students select the images they would like to transfer. They can choose sources such as newspapers, copies or scanned images of old photos, images printed from a computer or from magazines. Other sources can include collections of historic photographs found online or from university and local library websites.

Have students choose their first image and place a strip of tape over it. Instruct students to cut out the image covered with tape. Students should smooth the tape over the image with their hands or burnish it with something smooth, such as a bone folder or the rounded edge of a large wooden spoon.

To remove the paper from the back of the tape, students should soak the image in a bowl of warm water for at least 5 minutes before peeling the magazine paper off the back of the tape. If needed, students can rub the residual paper off under running water. The more they can rub off, the clearer the image will appear on the tape. Remind students not to scrape the paper off, however, or they may scratch the image.

Once the paper is removed, have students pat their image dry on a towel. The image should resemble a thin transparency. Students can arrange, overlap and combine all of their images on a blank surface. They should attach the images to the background surface (paper, canvas, board, fabric, etc.) by applying a thin coat of glue to the back of the image. Another thin coat of gel medium can be applied over the top of the image to finish.

Students can also alter their images to give them a different look. Methods can be used to alter the “look” of the tape. For example, students can use sandpaper to rub the shiny tape surface to give it a matte appearance. Students can also use a mixed media approach by drawing on the images with marker or applying thin coats of acrylic paint mixed with gel medium over the images.

Additional Resources

McElroy, Darlene Olivia and Wilson, Sandra Duran. *Image Transfer Workshop: Mixed-Media Techniques for Successful Transfers*. North Light Books, 2008.

Michel, Karen. *The Complete Guide to Altered Imagery*. North Light Books, 2009.