

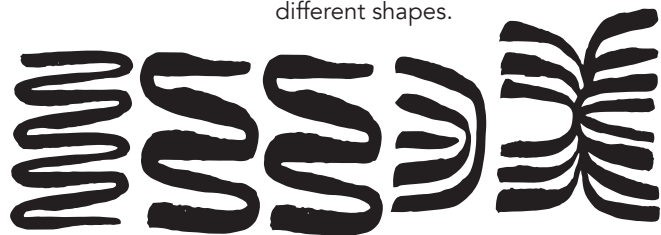
1 GATHER YOUR SUPPLIES

Today we are going to make an abstract collage. If you want to get an idea of what might be possible, skip to the next page to see some examples from my own work. To start, you'll need the materials you want to collage with (I usually use magazines, but you could also use junk mail, cereal boxes, and old newspapers or photos), a bigger piece of paper or cardboard to use as the background, scissors, and tape or glue.



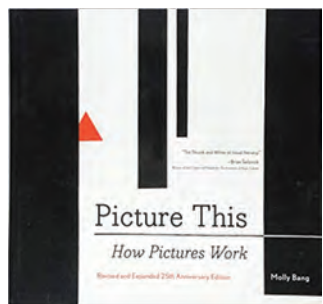
These are my favorite scissors 😊

If you don't have anything to collage with, try making your own materials! Draw, paint, or color patterns and textures on paper and cut or tear them into different shapes.



4 START CUTTING & ARRANGING THE PIECES YOU HAVE

Everything is an experiment! Anything is possible! What do you want to feel or remember when you look at your art?



Picture This by Molly Bang was one of the first books I read that taught me how to communicate feelings with shapes and colors. If you haven't read it and want to learn more, I hope you can borrow a copy from the library!



2 THINK OF SOMETHING THAT YOU WANT TO REMEMBER OR REPRESENT WITH YOUR ART

This could be a word, phrase, or feeling that might be connected to an experience or memory you have.

For example, here are some things I've made art about in the past:

hope sadness a dream I had
 how my body feels anger the kind of world I want
 how I feel looking at the sky something I read

Keep your idea in mind as we move onto the next step, but don't worry if you can't think of anything. I don't always know what I'm going to make art about before I start. You will figure it out as you go!

5 GLUE OR TAPE THEM IN PLACE

I usually start taping pieces together before I know where everything is going to go because it helps me let go of my fear of making a "mistake." If you want to finish your collage before you tape anything, that's ok too.

6 REARRANGE, MAKE MISTAKES, AND TAKE BREAKS

You get to decide when your art is "done." Keep rearranging until you like it! Sometimes it helps to turn your paper upside down or sideways to get a different perspective.

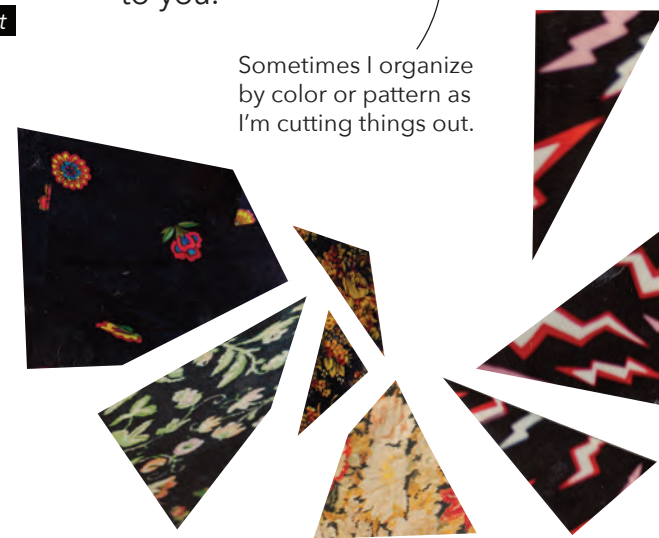
If you start to feel discouraged, frustrated or stuck, go listen to the voice note I recorded for you called *When You Want To Give Up*.



3 CUT OUT COLORS, SHAPES, PATTERNS, AND PICTURES YOU LIKE

Your pile won't look like mine, or anyone else's, and that's a good thing! You're different and special and your art will be too. Just make a pile of things you like and collect anything that looks interesting to you.

Sometimes I organize by color or pattern as I'm cutting things out.



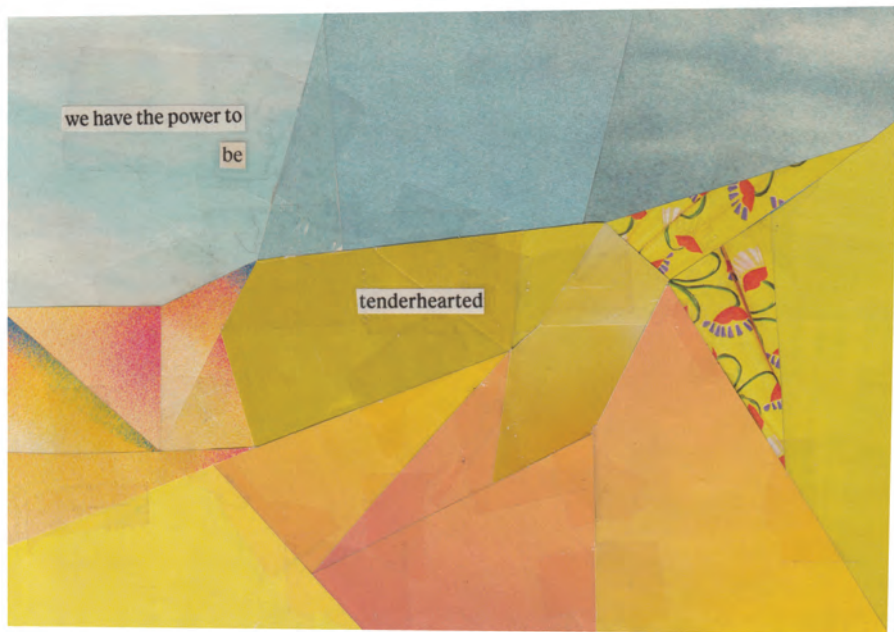
7 ADMIRE WHAT YOU MADE!

You did it! I'm proud of you! Go hang your art on your fridge, keep it for yourself, or give it to someone you love.

If you feel disappointed by what you made, or worried that maybe you aren't an artist after all, go listen to the voice note I recorded for you called *The World Needs Your Art*.

8 KEEP PRACTICING

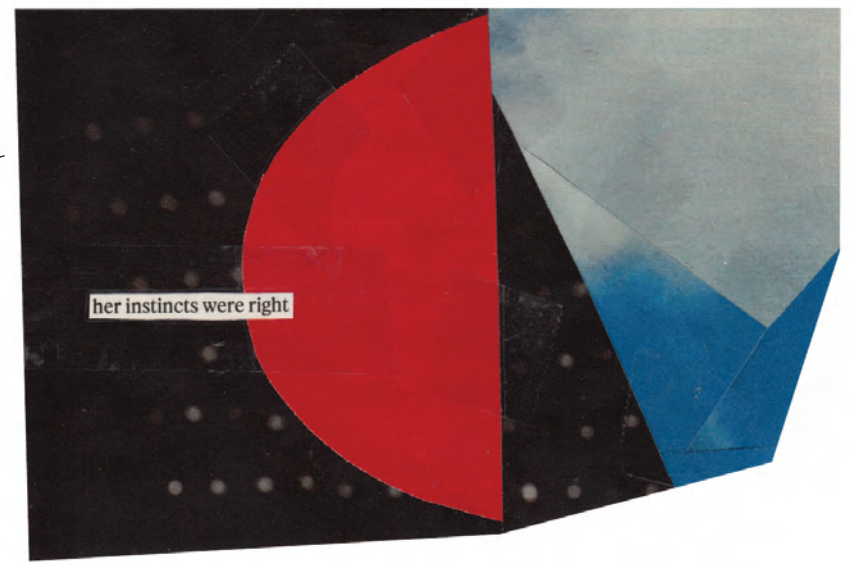
Making art is skill you can grow. If you want to make art, and be an artist, you can be! The more you practice, and learn how to trust yourself, the more you will develop your own unique style. I can't wait to see what else you make!



TITLE: We Have The Power To Be Tenderhearted
YEAR: 2021
MATERIALS: Magazines, tape

I found the words for this one before I made the collage.

I was inspired by the colors and shapes I cut out, and made the collage before I found the words.



TITLE: Her Instincts Were Right
YEAR: 2020
MATERIALS: Magazines, tape

PROJECT EXAMPLES

BY NIKITA ZOOK



TITLE: Believing
YEAR: 2019
MATERIALS: Digital print of original collage made with magazines and tape

I made this collage to represent what the month of December feels like to me. I gave it a title after I made it.

I made this collage for a prison justice art show fundraiser for Let's Get Free called Glow Home: Illuminating Relationships. The question I wanted to answer with my art was: What does home feel like? I used the lyrics from *Family* by Blood Orange featuring Janet Mock as inspiration.



TITLE: Nothing Is Required Of You
YEAR: 2019
MATERIALS: Magazines, glue