

REBEKA ELIZEGI

COLLAGE

TO CHANGE THE WORLD



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BIS PUBLISHERS

CREDITS

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INDEX

INTRODUCTION	04
WELCOME TO CHANGE	06
A BRIEF HISTORY	08
CONTEMPORARY AUTHORS	10
ATELIER	18
HOW TO START	22
LET'S WORK!	27
IMAGE LIBRARY	87
ABOUT THE AUTHOR	146

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NO LONGER SILENCED

BY LAURIE KANYER

Laurie Kanyer, MA, author of *Collage Care: Transforming Emotions and Life Experiences with Collage*; *Collage Care: The Method*, and co-founder of The Kanyer Art Collection.

DO YOU FEEL SILENCED?
DO YOU NEED A WAY
TO COPE WITH THE
COMPLEXITIES,
CHALLENGES, AND
UNCERTAINTIES YOU
SEE IN THE WORLD?
YOU HAVE COME TO
THE RIGHT PLACE!

ONE WAY TO SPEAK UP IN A COMPLEX WORLD IS THROUGH COLLAGE-MAKING

By cutting of symbolic paper elements, you can show what you think and feel about an issue. By pasting the elements to a substrate, one is no longer quieted. By arranging a series of letters building the word STOP or GO, one can express the depths of their concerns and can show a way to amend hardships.

With the ease and swiftness of collage-making — the act of cutting and pasting — you are no longer silenced. Your thoughts, suggestions and feelings are transformed into a visual representation of the action.

YOU CAN SEE THE COLLAGE AND THE WORLD CAN TOO

Deep emotional and intellectual transformation on any topic held close to your heart, mind, and soul, can be expressed.



No longer do you have to ponder what to do, you have an option at your fingertips — tear, cut, paste!

You can effectively change the world by speaking your mind in a collage. It can begin with you, and others will have the opportunity to respond in their own way. Consider that each of us are in some way a world unto ourselves — a collection of experiences, insights, and desires. By exposing one's hopes and dreams for a more just world, one can improve the landscape of their personal world. By finding one's voice in a collage, the power and potency of one's emotional tone is dissipated. The peace that can come from this action provides for a world with at least one soul — YOU — in a more transformed state.

The reason this process is needed is that so many of the ills of the world that need changing have to do with the internal struggles people face. In other words, one needs to consider the pollution one holds internally while encouraging others to pick up trash and to not litter.

What you find in this book will help you change yourself as you reflect on the changes needed in the world. The exercises here offer you a structure to tend, lend, amend, and mend one's personal internal world-like strife issues and make a statement about what the greater world needs. In doing the exercises here, you are caring for YOU, and at the same time you are caring for the changes you see needed in the world.

The process of building a collage on an issue of greater concern will offer you the chance to make internal shifts. The action of collage-making, with its ease of implementation, will give voice to your internal thoughts on the causes that reside in your singular world. Similarly, a parallel process is taking place in supporting change in the external world.

With collage-making your world changes and the greater world can see the possibilities for change too. Pour through **Collage to Change the World**, choose an issue, build a collage and observe what happens to you. Share your collage and witness the shifts that may come about for others.

WELCOME TO CHANGE

BY REBEKA ELIZEGI

COLLAGE IS, IN
ADDITION TO AN
ARTISTIC MEDIUM,
A SPACE OF
PERSONAL FREEDOM;
DON'T IMPOSE
LIMITS ON YOURSELF
TO CREATE.

Welcome to **Collage to Change the World**, a book-workshop that invites you to reflect on and change the things we don't like about the world around us through the creative potential of the collage technique.

Whether you are someone who already makes collages on a regular basis, or if you are new to collage-making and are looking for a means of personal expression through art, in this book you will find general information and a series of tips that I hope will inspire you to immerse yourself fully in the world of creation.

CHANGE THE WORLD THROUGH YOUR EYES

In the work pages of this book, you will find inspiring backgrounds and small texts that

present different current issues that affect our planet, which you can reflect on through the use of collages: the environment, pollution, climate change, respect for animals, recycling, equality between people, human rights, racism, diversity, war and feminism, among many others.

Before getting down to work, I invite you to reflect on each of these issues and approach them from your own point of view, applying a critical, hopeful, ironic, empowered view... Use the images you compose to express your opinion and change the aspects of the world around you that you are unhappy with.

Bear in mind that art plays a fundamental role in communication, as the artist, by means of their creations, transmits emotions, but also messages and opinions, and this fact helps us to reflect on our own existence, our social values and on life in general.

In the final pages you will find a series of cut-out images selected exclusively for this book that can help you in your collages, but I recommend that you complement them using your own material, as this will help you to develop your own style and allow you to evolve your imagination in a more personalised way.

The more you explore the technique, the more you will refine your own style, the more you will connect with yourself and the more you will enjoy your creations.



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REFLECT, RECYCLE AND TRANSFORM

The collage allows us to change our vision of the world, to transform and recycle existing images to create others with a new meaning and a new aesthetic, and its practice can be very therapeutic and rewarding both individually and collectively.

It also allows us to create a universe of our own, interacting with those aspects of our environment that we would like to improve, and using its creative potential as a magnificent tool to change our world.

PRACTISE THE “BUTTERFLY EFFECT”.

The act of creativity gives us confidence and satisfaction, and as a result, it also improves our relationship with our environment. As the “butterfly effect” theory states, each of our individual actions has an impact on our immediate circle, but its ripple effect also influences the world at large. Therefore, let's start by reinventing ourselves in order to improve our planet as well.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF COLLAGE ART

THE DADAISTS USED COLLAGE TO ILLUSTRATE THEIR FANZINES AND MAGAZINES BY MIXING PHOTOGRAPHS, TEXTS, OR OBJECTS.

Collage is an artistic technique that consists of assembling different elements such as papers, newspapers, magazines, fabrics, objects, paint, etc. to create a new unifying work of art. By arranging these materials in a certain order, a new and original composition is created.

It seems that the origins of the collage can be traced back to the 12th century, notably in Japan, where the calligraphers scraps of paper and fabric were used to create backgrounds on which poems were written. Later on in the Middle Ages, various materials, such as gold leaf, were glued onto religious images to enhance the figures depicted. As early as the 16th century, some artists such as Giuseppe Archimboldo began to build their pictorial works with very specific stylistic elements that resembled scraps, from which the collage of the 20th century would later be derived.

THE 20TH CENTURY AND THE AVANT-GARDE

The first artistic collages, assemblages, or photomontages, as we understand them today, are to be found within the framework of the first artistic avant-garde movements in Europe at the beginning of the 20th century, which were created with a clear desire to break away from classical art, and proposed freeing the subconscious by promoting creation, among other innovative proposals.

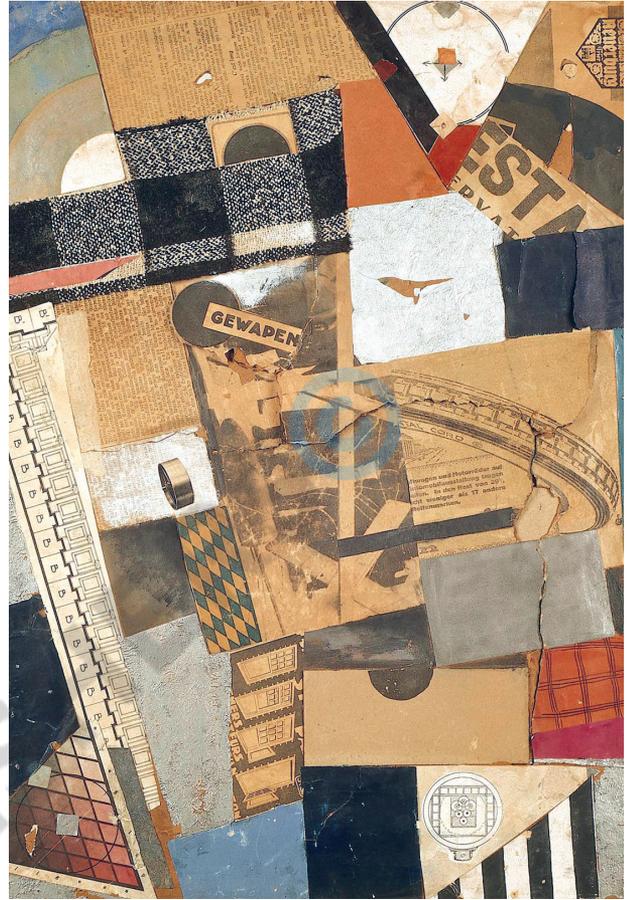


© of the photography San Telmo Museum - Nicolás de Lekuona - *No title*, 1935

According to most studies, the first to use collage were Picasso and Braque, while a few years later it was the Dadaists who expanded its expressive and conceptual potential, elevating this technique to one of its greatest representations, with a clear surrealist character and always defending the absolute freedom of the artist when it came to creativity.

THE LEGACY OF THE DADAISTS

The Dadaists used collage to illustrate their fanzines and magazines by mixing photographs, texts, or objects. Authors such as **Hans Arp**, **Marcel and Suzanne Duchamp**,



© Theo van Doesburg - *The Denaturalized Material, Destruction 2*, 1923

Hanna Hoch, **Kurt Schwitters**, **George Grosz**, **Raoul Haussmann**, **John Heartfield**, **Theo van Doesburg** and many others made it one of their main means of artistic creation.

THE WOMEN STAND OUT

Today, many international artists use collage as a means of expression, and it should also be noted that, unlike in other artistic fields, it is a medium in which a large number of women stand out, such as the historic **Grete Stern**, **Eileen Agar**, **Barbara Kruger**, **Toshiko Okanoue**, **Kara Walker**, or the aforementioned **Hanna Hoch**, among many others.

HOW TO START

STEP BY STEP

STARTING WITH
A WARM-UP AND
CREATING SMALL
COMPOSITIONS WILL
HELP YOU CONNECT
WITH THE MATERIAL
AND MAKE SURE
THAT EVERYTHING
GOES MUCH MORE
FLOWINGLY.

A FEW TIPS TO GET YOU STARTED!

RECYCLE

Don't throw away anything that is minimally interesting, even if it doesn't seem so at the time. That element or cut-out might be a key piece for one of your works in the future.

FAMILY PHOTOS

If you're going to work with old family photos or personal material, you can make copies to keep the original images intact.

CLEAN HANDS

Work with clean hands, without nail polish or jewellery, so as not to damage the material and to have a more direct connection between the paper and your hands.



TIP

It's important to start with a little warm-up, just like an athlete does before their training routine or a singer before they sing. In this case, you should carefully observe the material you're going to choose.

STEP 1

Before you start, organise and tidy up your work material and prepare a pleasant space. Bear in mind that collage is a very gratifying technique, but it can also create mess and chaos around you, so my tip is to start off your sessions with a clean and tidy table.



TIP

It's important to have small scissors (such as nail scissors) to cut out small pieces or the middle of some photos. Their rounded tips will help you better adapt the cut.

STEP 2

Once you've selected some images, start cropping them; You don't always need to silhouette a figure as it is; create your own, more abstract, and symbolic cut-outs to personalise and enrich your work.



TIP

The scalpel follows the movement of your hand, so it's great for cutting out curved shapes. Keep the blade clean at all times and change it frequently to maintain a flawless cut.

STEP 3

The scalpel is a key tool in a collage workshop. It's really practical for cutting out pieces with different shapes as you can adapt your hand movement to the shape of the cut.



TIP

In collage, you can't make sketches unlike in other artistic disciplines such as drawing, so it's a good idea to take photos of your compositions and then choose the one you like the most, before gluing the final composition.

STEP 4

Composition is a key element in the construction of a good collage. Take some time to try out, change, assemble and disassemble before gluing the pieces down, always looking for a harmonious balance between colours, shapes, and textures.



TIP
Working with double-sided tape is very convenient and clean. Look for an acid-free product so that it doesn't create transparencies on the paper.

STEP 5

If you use glues with a brush, you'll get more precision and you'll be cleaner when working. Use specific, acid-free, and rubber glues. Any residue from these glues can be removed easily by gently rubbing off with your finger.



TIPS
Precision tweezers (they can be hair removal tweezers) and a rolling pin or a wooden folder are great for perfecting your finishes.

STEP 6

To handle very small pieces, you can use precision tweezers. They'll help you place them more accurately when it comes to gluing them. To flatten the pieces, you can use a rolling pin or a wooden folder. This will guarantee a more compact adhesion between the different pieces.

FINAL

Sometimes, it's difficult to know whether a collage is finished, so it's important to analyse it carefully and without haste to decide whether there's something left to add or anything missing. It's very interesting to let it rest for a few days. Over time, you'll assess the result more objectively.



TIP

If you're going to frame your piece, choose the type of frame (baroque, minimalist, vintage, etc.) well, as the final style you want to add to your work also depends on that choice.

WELCOME TO COLLAGE TO CHANGE THE WORLD

Collage to Change the World is not just a book; it's a revolution in paperback. This extraordinary collage activity book is designed for everyone, from budding artists to seasoned creatives, aged 16 to 90.

In this book, you will:

- Explore the origins and evolution of collage art.
- Gain invaluable tips, tricks, and step-by-step instructions.
- Discover influential artists who are paving the way.
- Find beautiful material to work with including 29 beautiful backgrounds and more than 300 inspiring cut-out images.

Collage to Change the World requires no prior knowledge, just a willingness to engage and create. It's a unique combination of learning, practice, and activism, all bound together. Whether you want to reflect on your surroundings, advocate for change, or simply explore your creative side, this book is your guide to making a visual impact on the world.

REBEKA ELIZEGI

Rebeka Elizegi is a Spanish collagist, art director, and graphic designer. Her collages have illustrated international book and magazine covers, newspaper articles, album covers, and posters. She has published several illustrated books using the collage technique. Her work has been exhibited in galleries and museums in Barcelona, Madrid, Los Angeles, Warsaw, and Berlin.



HISTORY, TOOLS, TIPS



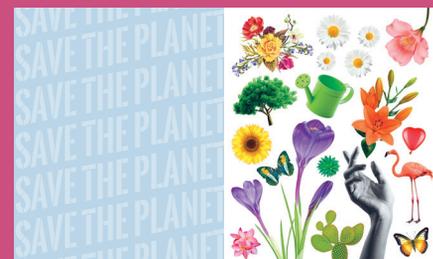
CONTEMPORARY ARTISTS



STEP BY STEP



BACKGROUNDS TO WORK



CUT-OUT PAGES

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