

Instructor: Leah Schreiber Johnson  
2D CONCEPTS

# Research Collage

## Objective

To create a collage in a square compositional format that expresses a metaphor inspired by a current event. The successful student will:

1. Utilize library and media resources in order to gain a basic but clear understanding of an issue in the news media.
2. Develop and understand the potential of metaphor in expression.
3. Do visual research to collect imagery that will assist in creating an artwork about this issue.
4. Utilize the elements and principle of design studied in class to create a strong collage composition that expresses the artist's idea.
5. Have good craft, with the entire image area engaged, and the collage hand-built.

## Materials

Some of the potential materials needed are:

- visual resources (newspapers, magazines, web images, photographs)
- UHU glue stick, Yes! Paste or other adhesive
- scissors, x-acto, and other cutting tools
- bristol board for collage support

## Procedures

1. Discover or decide on an issue that is important to you in the news media through whatever research level necessary. Use the library, local news publications, talk to people, etc. Get a good understanding of the problem. While at the library, check out at least one book or other library item that informs you on the issue.

2. Write a two-paragraph summary of your research and issue. Include why this topic is important to you, and what you hope to say through your piece about this topic. This is an environment of tolerance and coexistence so nothing disrespectful to a culture, people or religion will be accepted.

3. Through visual research on this issue, collect a number of images to **create a metaphor** that explores your point of view.

**Metaphor**- a direct comparison between two or more seemingly unrelated subjects describing one subject as being alike to another subject, useful for illustrating ideas, simplifying complex subjects and making people think.

4. Consider using color copies and digital software as ways of experimenting and developing complexity (copy and pasting multiples, etc).

5. Assemble a hand-cut and pasted collage using your understanding of the elements and principles of design, in addition to the following terms and guidelines:

- a. The collage should be a square with a **minimum** of 7 inches per side.
- b. The entire square image area should be completely activated.
- c. Any negative space should be intentional and add to the reading of the metaphor.
- d. The collage should express at least 3 of the following principles of organization and **Gestalt Psychological Theory**, a psychological theory that visual information is understood holistically before it is examined individually:

### Grouping

An organizational tool expressed in the inclination to visually or physically group similar types of objects within a composition, based on such factors as: *location, orientation, shape, color, texture, and value.*

### Containment

A framing element that creates a boundary within a composition while at the same time grouping the objects within the container.

### Repetition

Using similar visual elements over an extended area of a composition. (Related to Patterns, Motifs, and Rhythm.)

### Proximity

The perceived distance between compositional elements.

### Fusion

Directly related to the Gestalt of Proximity; it occurs when separate objects appear to be connected.

### Continuity

A seamless harmony among compositional elements. (Related to Visual Harmony, and Unity.)

### Movement

A distinct visual passage that directs the viewer's eye through a composition. (Related to Directional Force.)

### Closure

The tendency to connect fragmented visual elements to produce a larger visual element.



Artists to Review:

Agnes Montgomery - American artist, from Philadelphia (b. 1977)



Martha Rosler- American artist, from Brooklyn (b. 1943)



Luuk Wilmering- Dutch Artist, from Haarlem, Netherlands (b. 1957)

