



## AUART 220: MODERN LIFE, MODERN ART SCRAPBOOKING ASSIGNMENT

### OVERVIEW:

For this assignment, you will *browse* or *search* modern periodicals (published circa 1850 to 1950) to learn about the visual culture of modern life, and then create a scrapbook page based on your findings.

By completing this assignment, you will:

- a) develop skills in primary source literacy;
- b) engage with the visual culture of modern life; and
- c) reflect on scrapbooking and collage as critical strategies.

### YOUR FINAL SUBMISSION WILL INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

- Your scrapbook page(s)
- Copies of your source material from the periodicals. (You may also include material from other sources, and I do not need copies of these.)
- A written paper (2-3 pages, 1.5- or double-spaced) that brings together the reflective work completed as part of steps 2, 3, and 4. (See below. Notice that the words **reflection** and **reflect** are in bold in each of these steps!) The paper must include citations that help demonstrate your engagement with primary source materials and course resources.
- A works cited page that includes the pages of source material. (See citation guide.)

### INSTRUCTIONS:

**Step 1.** Attend the class session on primary source literacy to learn about historical periodicals and about accessing these sources online.

**Step 2.** Choose a topic to explore for your assignment. Some suggestions: search for a particular topic that interests you; search for articles about a particular historical event; browse just one week/one month/one year across one or more periodicals. Note that you will need to explain your method for finding materials in your written **reflection**.

**Step 3.** Browse or search historical periodicals, following the strategy established in step 2. Choose 5 to 8 pages or articles to look at and read closely, and then **reflect** on what you learn about modern visual culture from this close looking and reading. Remember to consider the materiality, visual form, and content of your examples. (These topics will be discussed during the session on primary source literacy.)

**Step 4.** Create a scrapbook page using your historical materials that responds in some way to the historical scrapbooking and collage examples we have looked at in class. This might mean replicating one particular type of scrapbook or collage using your own materials, or it might mean devising your own strategy and considering how it compares to the examples we have seen in class. **Reflect** on what you learn from this process about modern art and visual culture.

Additional Resource: See “Collage Making Tips,” prepared by Augustana student Anne Mirejovsky (Class of 2021)

### **RESOURCES FOR THIS ASSIGNMENT:**

Illustrated Periodicals (accessible through the University of Alberta Library Database)

- *Illustrated London News Historical Archive, 1842-2003*
- *HarpWeek: Electronic Access to Harper's Weekly, 1857-1912*

Sources on Scrapbooking and Collage

- “Victorian Scrapbooking,” [Crafting Communities website](#), 2021.
- [“Yes, this is my album”: Victorian Collections of Scraps, Signatures, and Seaweed](#), University of Victoria Libraries, 2021.
- Patrick Elliott, ed. *Cut and Paste: 400 Years of Collage*. National Galleries of Scotland, 2019.

# COLLAGE MAKING TIPS

PREPARED BY ANNE MIREJOVSKY, JUNE 2021

## 1. GENERAL COLLAGE MAKING TIPS

### A. Starting Out

- When you first start your research, you may not have a clear idea of what you want to make; THAT IS OKAY! The process of researching and gathering images allows you the time to think and shift your concept as you go.
- As you go through the databases, make sure to save the images you like to a word document or file folder on your computer. This keeps all your materials in one easy location (you don't want to lose something because a link didn't save correctly!)
- Save lots of images you like and parse through them after you feel your research is complete. Part of the process of making a collage is working with physical materials. While you may be able to plan your collage digitally, I encourage you to print out your materials so that you can shuffle through them and see all of your elements at once. Though you may already have an idea in mind, it doesn't always translate in the ways you want. It's important to allow yourself the room to play and adapt your design throughout the collage process.

### B. Design

- Don't glue anything down until the very end! Cut and test out how different layouts or different images change the feel of your collage.
- Experiment with incorporating different found materials. Things like paper bags and clear sheet protectors can have interesting effects.
- Picking different images with similar colour schemes, paper types, or line work helps to create a cohesive final collage.
- On the flip side, sometimes you want a feature to stand out! Try using an object with a different colour scheme, or use an object that appears 'out of place' for your collages setting.
- Feel free to reprint or resize images to make them work in your collage.
- Experiment with using text and images! Remember that text is very distracting as we are trained to read any words we see, use text consciously.
- Some collages work well on a plain background, and others work better with background images. Landscape paintings can be a good choice. Try using paintings or drawings from Modern artists.
- You can create depth in your collage by cutting into the background and threading paper objects through the layers of your collage. Remember, collage can be three-dimensional. Play with shifts from foreground to background

### C. Materials

- Sharp Exacto Knives are good for precise cuts
- Small Sewing Scissors can be good for cutting small objects
- Cardstock Paper or Mayfair works well as a sturdy paper base
- Glue
  - Some people prefer glue sticks, though they can be messy
  - Tape or dot rollers work well without the mess. The glue from dot rollers can often be rubbed away, allowing you to clean messes.

## 2. TIPS FOR SEARCHING THE PERIODICALS

### A. Illustrated London News Historical Archive, 1842-2003

- Copy and paste the database name into the UofA library website in the search bar for databases
- Go to advanced settings and pick a year range to go between, then scroll down to illustration type and select the kinds of illustrations you would like to see
- Sort by document title to see a variety of years instead of chronological order
- Use terms such as art or architecture etc.

### B. HarpWeek: Electronic Access to Harper's Weekly, 1857-1912

- Sign in with your CCID from the link to access the database (if the link doesn't work properly, try using a different browser like Firefox or logging out of other Gmail accounts)
- Scroll down the page and click finding aids
- From here, you can pick what topics you want to grab images from
- After you click a topic, scroll down to the illustrations section to find images
- Click get printable version and make sure to **save the images**

*Note: Sometimes, copying the hyperlink doesn't give you a link to the image because of the authorization login process.*

## 3. SUPPLEMENTARY RESOURCES

Your collage will need some details that you may not be able to find in the periodicals. You can search for images on your own (Flickr is a good resource) or browse these databases:

### A. Biodiversity Heritage Library

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/biodivlibrary/sets/>

*Thousands of plant and animal illustrations from old texts*

### B. University of Toronto Anatomia Collection

<https://anatomia.library.utoronto.ca/>

*Thousands of anatomical sketches*

The following two collages were created by Anne Mirejovsky based on a search for articles about the 19th-century free love movement. She supplemented her findings with images from the Biodiversity Heritage Library and the University of Toronto Anatomia Collection, and employed a method of collage that she developed previously in her art practice.

