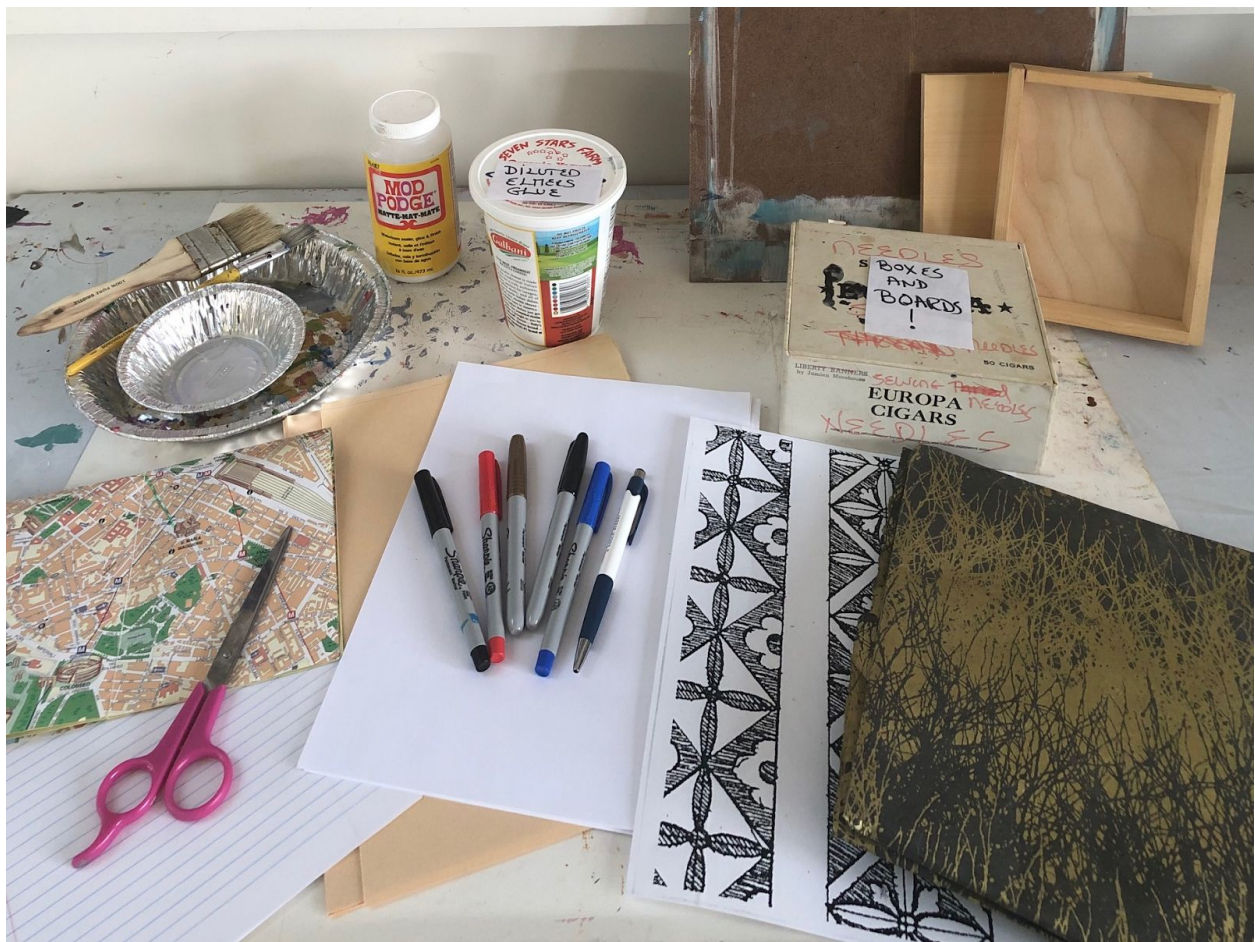


## TEA PAPER COLLAGE

Here is a fun art project - good for adults and children of any age!



### Materials:

- PAPER Look around the house for old letters, newspapers (only good news-pages please as in weather charts etc) scraps of saved gift wrap, stamps etc. Plain old printer paper onto which your artists have scribbled, made marks, written the alphabet, math homework, science experiments, stories, drawings. Print out on your copier photos, musical scores, textile designs, whatever. Avoid glossy paper of any type as it wont stick.
- SHARPIE, any color. The sharpie images are preserved upon tea water bath. Have the artists draw in sharpie while you roam around the house foraging for more papers. The little challenge is they must cover the entire surface of the 8 x 11 or whatever size paper with their marks.
- A couple of old brushes, flats are best. (A flat brush is a flat sided brush as opposed to a tapered or round one.)
- Smaller shallow container for each person's glue- ideal are small tinfoil pie plate placed inside larger pie plate which can hold the brush alongside.
- Elmers Glue, diluted in a plastic container 1/4 water to 3/4 glue- stir well.

- Flat plastic or baking tray with two inch sides- large as possible. Several if you have.
- Old towels for blotting or even better...newsprint!
- Several black tea bags -more the better. you can also do this with coffee grinds- strained and diluted with water.
- A piece of masonite, heavy mat paper, wooden tray - whatever you have on hand for the collage surface. You can also cover bottles- mason jars, wine bottles, tabletops, whatever! Surface must be smooth, clean, not varnished. You can sand it lightly if it is.
- Ideal set up is a plastic tablecloth on the biggest table-newspapers work fine too.Kitchen table is of course ideal so you can all be together!

PART I: Make the TEA PAPER- ideally a day ahead of Part II.

After you have gathered a lot of non-glossy paper materials (see above) and the artists have created a nice pile of their own papers, prepare:

Directions:

1. Boil a pasta pot full of water and steep a lot of tea bags in it.
2. Allow to cool by pouring carefully into the large trays. Pour up to two inches, not more. Allow to cool to lukewarm or cooler. Can be reused.
3. Submerge the papers, one at a time and let them soak in the tea water for a minute or two.
4. Adjust the water color by adding more tea bags if needed. Use a wooden spoon or your hands to poke the paper down.
5. Blot the papers dry, carefully and spread out somewhere to dry completely.
6. Weight them down with books after they are dry.
7. When the papers are all dry...COLLAGE away!

PART II: Collage!

1. Gather, tear, cut, a pile of papers before glueing.
2. Glue under and OVER each paper as you lay it down. The glue acts as a nice varnish.
3. When all is finished you can further protect the lovely artwork by brushing a diluted layer of mod lodge or, as this is expensive, you can go over all once more with the diluted Elmers.

TADA! Have fun!

Love from Antonia Munroe and The Art Circle kids