

GLORIOUS GLUE!

ART WITH ADHESIVES

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INTRODUCTION

Squish! Drip, squiggle, squirt! Have a grand time creating two- and three-dimensional works of art with adhesives as one of the main ingredients. Use squeeze bottles of the glutinous ooze to produce imaginative creations. Have fun with free-flowing, spontaneous lines that are curvy or angular or dotty.

Learn too how to incorporate shape, form, texture and color into great gluey artworks. Mix your media with watercolors, chalk pastels, markers, tissue and crepe paper and more. Experiment with rubber cement—it is supremely slimy stuff. Recycle discards into delightful designs. Giving trash new life as a work of art is fun and good for the environment too. Do papier-mâché the easy way: Make masks that are up close and personal. Also easy is a user-friendly method of batiking without wax. Use string and starch to form stimulating sculptures. Try printmaking and collage techniques as well. You'll find some holiday suggestions and even glue pretzels—they're for the birds!

There are easy, proven projects in this book appropriate for artists of all ages. For your convenience we've added skills ratings: easy, moderate, and advanced. Easy and moderate projects will be well within the grasp of middle-school students, while advanced projects may be best suited to high-school ages. We've also noted easy cleanup projects and projects that are perfect for partners.

To help you in evaluating completed works, we've included information upon which to base assessment. Finally, there is a helpful glossary of definitions at the end of the book.

If one of your artworks doesn't seem to turn out right, don't be disappointed or discouraged. Glue does not always go where you want it to. Accidents happen, and sometimes they can be incorporated into a successful design.

This sticky business is quite inexpensive, and we'll show you how to make some low-cost substitutions to save even more. There are recipes in Chapter VIII for some great homemade clay, putty, and other sticky stuff.

The art projects in this book are designed to help develop visual discrimination and to stimulate creativity. The guidelines should be freely interpreted in a nonrestrictive manner. Since each person brings her or his own skills and background to a project, each adventure in this book will provide a different experience for every artist.

SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT

- Alum
- Aluminum foil, heavy-duty
- Art gum eraser
- Birdseed
- Black construction paper
- Brayer (ink roller)
- Brushes
- Cardboard, poster board, or tagboard
- Clear glue
- Cloth rags
- Colored chalk pastels
- Colored inks
- Colored tissue papers
- Contact cement
- Containers
- Cornstarch and corn syrup
- Crayons
- Crepe paper

- Discarded mechanical objects
- Electric mixer
- Fixative or hair spray
- Flour
- Food coloring
- India ink
- Kitchen powders (cinnamon, cocoa, paprika, etc.)
- Lacquer thinner or turpentine
- Large balloons
- Liquid starch
- Magazines
- Markers, various sizes and colors
- Masking tape
- Measuring cup
- Mucilage
- Muslin fabric
- Newspapers
- Oil of wintergreen
- Paper towels
- Pencils
- Plaster of paris
- Pliers
- Powdered laundry detergent

- Rubber cement with brush applicator
- Sawdust
- Scissors
- Screwdrivers
- Sieve or screen
- Tempera or acrylic paints
- Thread
- Vinegar
- Wallpaper paste
- Water-base printing ink
- Watercolor paints
- Waxed paper
- Wheat paste powder
- White drawing paper, 9 × 12 or larger
- White glue, in a squeeze bottle
- Yarn or heavy string

Chapter VII

Tip-Top Tissue and Crepe Paper Too

• Tissue's the Tops •

(PLATES 47–51)

Skills rating: All levels

A simpler collage, much faster and easier than the one in the previous chapter, uses a glue-and-water mixture with colored tissue paper. Just as the rubber cement-resist project in Chapter V could be representational or abstract, so too can this artwork. You can cut or tear tissue paper into geometric or free-form shapes, or you can assemble such recognizable shapes as hearts and arrows, a bouquet in a vase, or whatever you wish.

Use sturdy paper, tagboard, cardboard, or mat board as a support. A light-colored background would be best for colorful results. Mix white liquid glue with a little water to thin it (you may substitute polymer medium or decoupage glue if you have it). You'll also need a brush and some newspapers to spread underneath your work.

Choose four or five colors of tissue paper that will work well together. A well-planned color scheme is especially important when colors overlap and show through each other, as they will with this activity.

Next, cut or tear a variety of related shapes in different sizes. Arrange them, overlapping, on your background piece until a pleasing design has been formed. Adhere the tissue pieces by first lifting them and brushing

thinned glue (or medium) underneath them on the support itself. Then lay the pieces down and brush more mixture on top.

Thin tissue wrinkles easily, which is perfectly acceptable. Also, the dye in some brands of tissue will bleed or spread when wet, and that too is often very appealing.

If your finished composition is a blend of beautiful pastel colors, you may wish to stop right there. However, if your collage has been done in vibrant, deep or bright colors, you may wish to accent it with a few touches of black india ink. Use a fine brush and a very light hand, and just follow along some edges of the paper shapes with a thin black line. The ink will branch out and spread a bit, so be careful not to overdo it. You'll be pleased with your totally terrific tissue collage. It's a top-notch idea.

Evaluation

Have you overlapped many transparent layers of tissue effectively? Have you used small, medium, and large pieces? Do the colors combine well? Are there focal points within the composition? Are there a variety of values in evidence?

• Crepe Paper Appliqué •

(PLATES 52–54)

Skills rating: All levels

Sometimes artistic expression can come from almost accidental effects. Crepe paper prints are surprising and fun.

You'll need:

- Crepe paper in bright and/or deep colors
- Paintbrushes

- Glue and water (or liquid starch)
- White drawing paper or tagboard
- Permanent markers or india ink
- Pencils

First, draw a sketch on the white paper in pencil. Suggested subjects might be a person, still-life objects, a large colorful insect, or a tropical fish. Go over the pencil lines in permanent ink (your choice of either marker or brushed-on india ink). Allow it to dry.

Next, wet the surface with a glue-and-water mixture (or with liquid laundry starch). Place torn or cut pieces of crepe paper on the white paper. The color should bleed, or run, especially if you brush more liquid over the top of the crepe paper pieces.

Sometimes the transfer of color is not satisfactory, either because the crepe paper color is very light or it is colorfast. Be sure to remove the moist crepe paper pieces while they still peel off easily. You may be delighted to see a wonderfully wrinkled print underneath.

Speaking of wrinkled, your background paper will buckle and curl up as it dries. Use heavier tagboard or even good watercolor paper, if available, for easier flattening of the work later.

Evaluation

Is the ink drawing well balanced on the page? Have you used good craftsmanship in drawing with the marker or with the brush and india ink? Have you chosen a pleasant color scheme? Are the color transfers effectively printed on the paper?

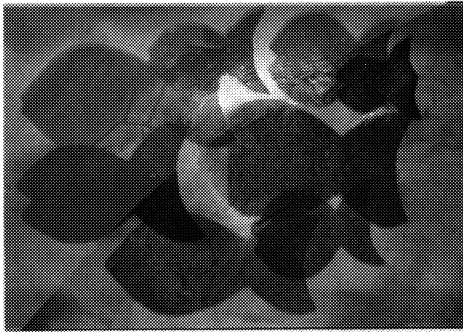


Plate 47. Tissue paper collage

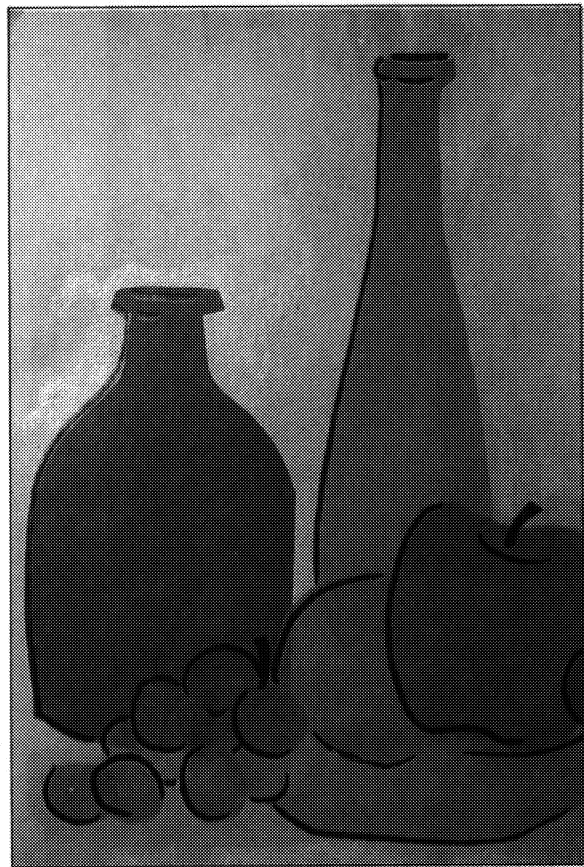


Plate 48. Tissue paper collage

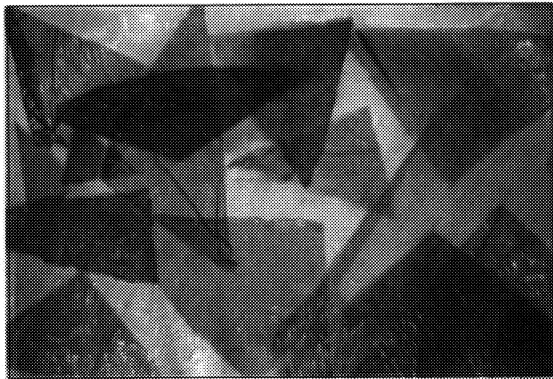


Plate 49. Tissue paper collage

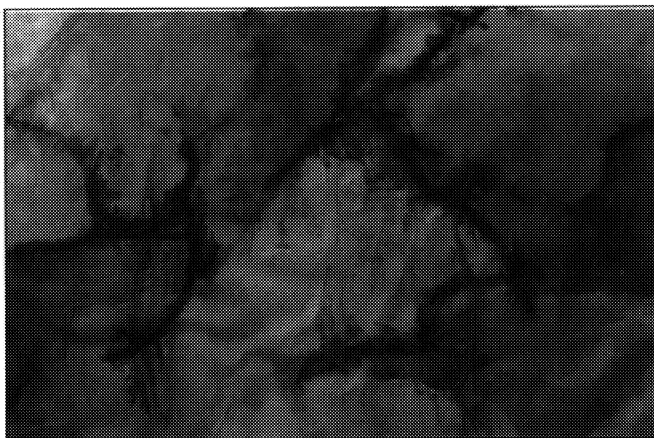


Plate 50. Tissue paper collage

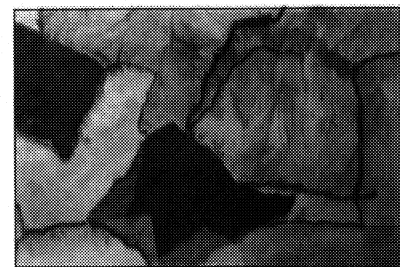


Plate 51. Tissue paper collage