

Lydia Rink - Exploring Collage Composition - FREE 5-Day Challenge - Day 2

When you think of collage, you immediately think of 'paper' and 'layers'.

But it's not just about stacking elements on top of each other. Layering is a fundamental technique in collage art, where different materials such as paper and paint are layered to create depth and dimension.

To get started with layering, you can start with two or three layers.

Here are some examples of collages using just two layers, a background and an object in the foreground.

As you can see, I've made sure that the foreground contrasts with the background to create depth.

You can work with a light background and place a darker object in the foreground, or you can work with a very light foreground.

Both have their charms.

You can gradually add more layers and make the collage composition more complex.

For example, you can work with cut-outs and let the underlying layers show through.

Interesting effects can be achieved with transparent layers.

The white of the paper can be included as a layer.

Layers of colour or mark making made with pencils or acrylic markers can be added.

Very complex collages can be created by combining different techniques.

The assignment for day 1 of this challenge is to experiment with different layers.

You can work in your sketchbook or on a firm piece of paper.

For such studies and experiments I like to use my sketchbook.

I recommend working in small format. It's quick and you don't need a lot of material.

I start by choosing different pieces of paper from my stash.
For the background, light colours and patterns that are not too large are good.
For the foreground, I choose a piece of paper that contrasts well with the background.

Large pieces of paper are placed in the background and small ones on top so that they overlap.

I like to work from light to dark.
I start with a light background and then add darker layers.

You can also work from large to small.

(big circle to smaller circles)

Experiment as much as you can with different materials, shapes, colours and textures. Find out what you like and use it for your next creations.

In the next step we will work with different shapes.

Have fun experimenting!