

## Lydia Rink - Exploring Collage Composition - FREE 5-Day Challenge - Day 3

The second part of our challenge is about an element of art, form.

In the world of collage and mixed media, form is not just an element, it is the foundation upon which our creations rest. It is form that allows us to create unique and fascinating works of art.

Every piece of paper, every fragment we choose carries a shape, be it organic or geometric. These shapes are the building blocks from which our artworks are created and they play a crucial role in communicating our message to the viewer.

There are two kinds of shapes:

**Organic shapes:** These are inspired by nature and often have soft, flowing contours. They can represent plants, animals or abstract organic structures. Organic shapes are often irregular and asymmetrical.

**Geometric shapes:** These are clear, precise shapes such as circles, squares, triangles and rectangles. They are often regular and symmetrical and are based on mathematical principles.

Organic shapes often convey a sense of naturalness, fluidity and liveliness. They can convey an emotional and organic aesthetic and often create a connection with nature.

Geometric shapes, on the other hand, are often associated with order, structure and rationality. They can convey an abstract and artificial aesthetic and have a clear visual impact.

By combining both types and using different variations of shapes, you can create exciting compositions.

I started collecting shape variations in my sketchbook some time ago because I realised that it is not so easy to create interesting organic shapes. That's why I make small sketches so that I can draw from a large number of different shapes.

Some of these shapes are inspired by nature or objects I have found on the beach. Shadows are also a good inspiration for organic shapes.

Be inspired by your surroundings and go 'shape hunting' from time to time.

I've already prepared some paper and some tools.

Okay, let's start with the geometric shapes.  
Rectangles and squares are easy to cut out.  
For circles, I like to use punches. These punches come in different sizes and you can punch perfect circles with them.

I don't just like circles, I also like the left-over paper. You can make wonderful layers of paper! It looks great.  
I love using them in my collages.

Then there are the organic shapes.  
I draw them on paper and cut them out with a scalpel.  
I leave enough space between the shapes when I draw them, because that creates even more random shapes.

I also like to draw letters in between the shapes. I like the different shapes of the letters! It's a nice contrast to the organic shapes.

Please don't forget to use a self-healing cutting mat to protect your working table when using a scalpel.

If you're using thin paper, you can also layer 2-3 pieces of paper on top of each other. This way you can cut out lots of shapes in a short time.

You can also tear the paper. This will create irregular edges, which will contrast nicely with the very straight, smooth edges of the cut-out shapes.

Oh, this is a nice collection of different shapes.

Now it's your turn!

Assignment for today:

Create different shapes. Big, small, organic and geometric.  
Vary the size and colour of each shape.  
Use papers of different colours that go together and that you want to use for your collage later.

Happy creating!