

Lydia Rink - Exploring Collage Composition - FREE 5-Day Challenge - Day 4

Welcome back!

Today we are going to look at a fundamental design principle: contrast. Contrast plays a crucial role in collage design and can help to create visual interest, tension and focus the viewer's attention.

Contrast refers to the differences between the elements of a collage, be it in shape, colour, texture or size. By using contrast we can create visual interest and a dynamic composition.

*What can you achieve with contrast?

Contrast can be used to highlight certain elements or areas of the artwork and emphasise their importance.

The eye first perceives strong contrasts such as light and dark.

In this way, the focus of the composition can be drawn to a particular area.

This dark shape is a strong contrast to all the lighter areas in this collage. The viewer's eye first falls on this dark shape. Then they explore the surrounding areas. And there is so much more to discover.

There are geometric shapes
organic shapes
smooth and textured surfaces
large and small shapes
different patterns
and different colours

By contrasting different elements, we can create visual interest and guide the viewer's eye through the artwork.

Here the eye first falls on the large, dark shape.

Because of the high contrast.

Then the eye is drawn to the smaller shapes and the viewer is guided through the composition.

Here we see a large shape and a very small shape.

And here we see very light and very dark shapes.

Straight edges and torn edges
Geometric and organic shapes
Textured surfaces and very smooth surfaces

And here you can see very nicely that you can combine many differences even with a limited colour palette.

light - dark
geometric shapes - organic shapes
small letters - large letters
printed letters - handwriting
thin lines - thick lines
drawn elements and cut-out shapes
very smooth and torn edges

Contrast can be used to create tension between different parts of the artwork and give it a dynamic feel.

Here are some shapes I cut out yesterday.
I sorted them by color.
And here I have all the letters, numbers and small parts.
I like to use my sketchbook for exercises and experiments like this.
I take the white of the page and use it as a background.
First I choose some shapes.
I take the ones I like best at the moment.
I choose a large shape and see how it looks on the white background.
Then I choose a smaller shape that I can combine well with the larger one.
This one fits well, it's smaller and has a darker color value than the big one.
light - dark
big - small
What about small letters to contrast with the large ones?
With this piece of paper there is another difference.
So far we have only seen straight cut edges. But this piece has a torn edge.
How about a different color and an even smaller shape?
That fits well!
Very nice.
Coat everything with glue and glue it in place.

OK, let's make another collage.
How about a red shape?
It looks great.
A great shape with a nice pattern.

And a green shape for contrast.
Complementary colours make a nice contrast.
Here we have a red shape with a pattern next to a green shape.
How about a slightly lighter and smaller shape?
Yes, that works.
And maybe a big letter to contrast with the small letters.
How about a geometric shape?
A small dark circle will balance the composition and provide even more contrast.

And stick it on.

Done!

Your assignment for today:

Create small collages in your sketchbook or on small formats.

Use the shapes you created yesterday.

Experiment with different colours, shapes and textures to create interesting contrasts.

I'm looking forward to seeing your work!

Feel free to share your collages with the group.

You can find the link below.

Happy creating!

And don't forget to have fun!