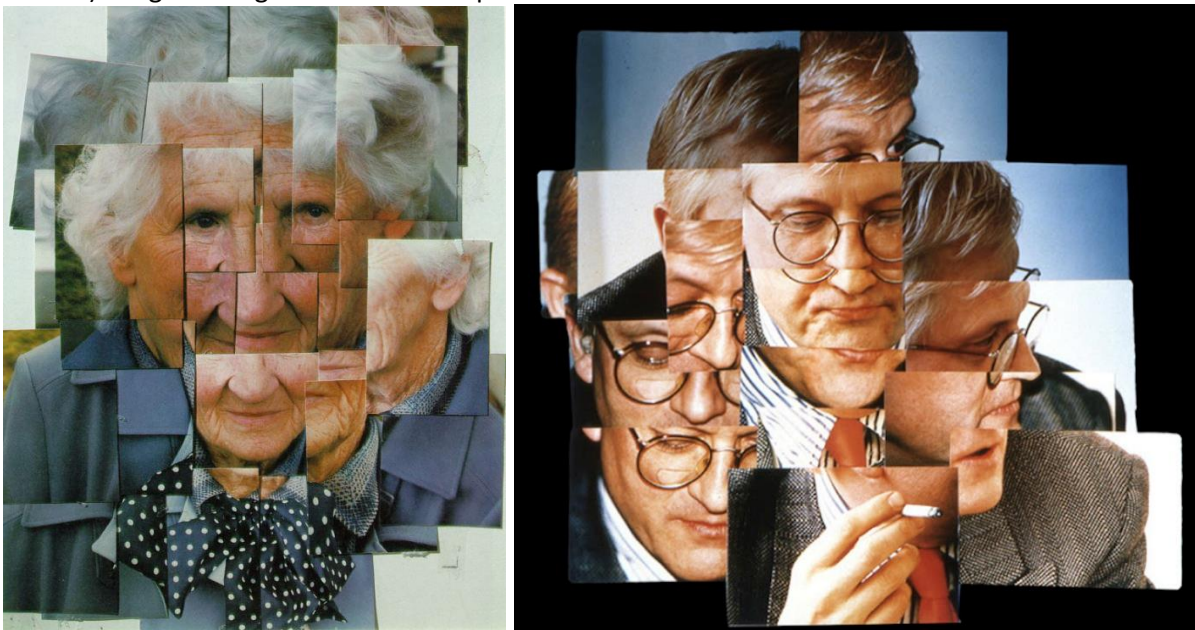


COLOURWHEEL WEEK: Photomontage/Using Photographs

This tutorial was inspired partly by a conversation with my mam and partly by a conversation with my neighbour, both of whom had been clearing out their photograph drawers during lockdown, and wondering what to do with all of those pictures we used to take in the days before digital cameras, when we couldn't be quite so selective in what we printed out. I wanted this tutorial to hopefully give you lots of ideas and inspiration. Please do take it in your own directions and put your own spin on it if you want to. The suggestions of ideas are by no means exhaustive and I'm sure all of you creative ColourWheel bods out there will come up with some stunners. You don't need to simply use old photographs; if you've got a camera and printer at home, you could take snaps on your daily walks; even using images from magazines would work.

Photomontage is the process of cutting, gluing, rearranging and overlapping two or more photographs to make a new image. This final image can be photographed to make it appear as a seamless finished piece. Sometimes, the finished piece is then used as inspiration for a drawing or painting. For those technically minded out there (I'm afraid I'm not) image-editing software on computers and iPads can also be used.



Images above – David Hockney copyrighted

Same Image, Different Angles: The images above are photomontages created by David Hockney. The same subject has been photographed from different angles and then rearranged into compositions pleasing to the artist's eye. In one respect, they become almost like a photographic version of a Cubist painting.

Panoramic Landscapes:



Image Top Left and Bottom-
David Hockney copyrighted

In David Hockney's image to the left, a landscape has been photographed using multiply pictures and then pieced together. The differences in light on different images gives a point of interest.



This second image shows that you don't need to be outside to create art. This makes an interesting image within a living room. Using coloured card behind can also help if there are missing photographs.

There is no limit to the amount of photographs you can use in a panoramic montage, but don't go crazy. If you are interested in giving this a whirl, here are a few pointers:

- Do take your photographs in a systematic order to avoid missing any parts of the scene.
- Stand near the edge of the scene/corner of the room and stay in the same spot whilst taking your photograph.
- Work across the scene, left to right in rows, trying to think about overlapping the previous image or one above.
- Take a couple of extra images to ensure that you've covered the whole scene.
- Using glue can be messy and can warp your images. Double sided tape is a better option – attach this onto the back of your photograph before laying them down. When you've printed your images, play around with overlapping them and finding a pleasing composition. Strong cardboard is a good option to paste your images onto. When you're ready to stick them down, begin from a corner with a print that is not overlapping other. A good rule of thumb is to make sure whatever is under each one is the board or another print already stuck down.

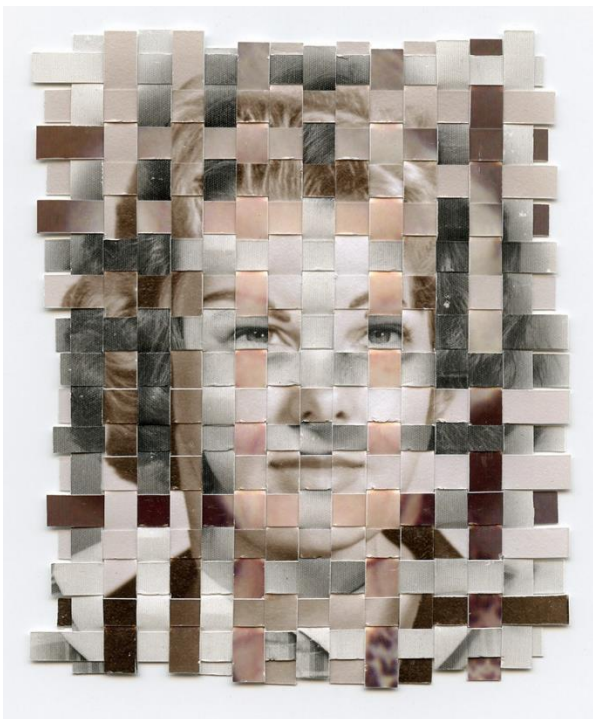
Photograph Weaving:



Millie Jane Smith, Copyrighted



Stephen Beer, Copyrighted



Greg Sand, Copyrighted



Carl Hayden, Copyrighted

Millie Jane Smith's image uses two different photographs of herself, one in black and white and one in colour. In Stephen Beer's image, two friends have been woven together. Greg Sand's image has taken three images from different stages in the same person's life. These have been woven together, using the final image as a metaphor for memory. The image from Carl Hayden's site shows traditional paper weaving doesn't have to be used. In this artwork, both photographs have been sliced vertically and laid out using one image then the other. An interesting variation on this would be to stagger the strips instead of having a perfectly straight line at the top.

To create these woven pictures (these don't have to be portraits – landscapes would work just as well) you'll need two photographs. These could be the same image copied twice – it doesn't matter if one is in colour and one in black and white. It could also be the same person but photographed in different positions. As in Stephen's Beer's image above, it could be two important people in your life. If you don't want to cut up any photographs, use images from a magazine or even any old pieces of art that you're not happy with.

- Begin by taking your first photograph and cut it into strips of an even width, horizontally along your image – the smaller the measurement of each strip, the more intricate your finished piece will look. If you do this on the back of the image, you can label each one with a number. In this way, if a sudden draft or wind scatters your paper, it'll make life a lot easier when you come to reorder them. A craft knife, metal ruler and cutting board, or paper trimmer is best for this. Repeat this with your second image but this time, cutting the image into strips vertically. Keep these strips the same width as before.
- It doesn't really matter if you begin with the horizontal or vertical strips, but choose one direction and lay these out, in order, onto your backing paper or board. Let's say, for the purpose of this set of instructions, you have laid these down vertically. It's important not to have any gaps between these strips. Use a small dab of glue or a piece of tape, to paste these down.
- Taking your first strip going in the opposite direction – horizontally in this case- weave the paper in between the vertical strips, pushing it to the top of the image as you go. Remember to go in-out-in-out all the way along. Repeat with the next strip but change the order e.g. if you began by going in-over, this time reverse it to over-in.
- Repeat with the remaining strips and again, once the horizontal strips are in place, tape or glue these into place. Sometimes you may want to glue as each place is positioned into place.

Other Ideas with Photographs



The WHOot copyrighted



The Four Corners Framing Gallery, copyrighted

The image of the left is called generational photographs.

The idea on the right has been taken from The Four Corners Framing Gallery.

I really like the idea of taking an old photograph of an ancestor, or even a close friend/family member, and creating a photo box with items around their image of meaningful objects which tell us a little more about that person. I have letters and hand written recipes from my lovely nana who passed away many years ago and think I might give an idea similar to this, a whirl.



Diys.com copyrighted

Finally, here's a bit of fun if you have a stash of photographs and don't want to do anything too technical or arty. This can be done with those 3-D cardboard letters found in stores such as Hobbycraft, or you can create your own lettering using templates and strong cardboard. Using a loved ones initials, cut photographs to fit the shapes of your lettering and once happy, paste them into place. A little like the panoramic landscape montage, double sided tape is a good option to use.