

Family Art from Home

Torn Paper Art

by Radka Apostalon

Enjoy the imprecision of torn paper pieces while creating a portrait, landscape, or still life

Supplies Needed

- Cardstock or cardboard
- Regular copy paper or any paper that tears well when wet, i.e. construction paper, newspaper, magazine
- Blue glue, hot glue, or Elmer's glue
- Watercolors or any diluted paint suitable for painting
- Brushes

How to Do It

1. Decide which topic you would like to explore (portrait, landscape or still life). On a white (or colored) sheet of copy paper draw the basic shapes with a brush loaded with water (photo 1).

2. Let the water soak until it starts to crinkle. Add more water as necessary. When the paper is no longer shiny, tear the shapes along the wet lines. Perfection is NOT the goal.

3. Outline the edges with the side of the brush dipped in watercolor (photo 2). Roll the diluted watercolors on the edge, letting the paint spread. Or let the shapes dry first and then paint. Experiment with the "wet on wet" technique. ("Wet on wet" technique is watercolor technique where paint is applied to the wet paper surface.)

4. Set aside and let dry. Place the assembled pieces of paper (making a portrait, landscape or still life) on the background which can be treated with subtle patterning or left plain. Assemble the intended final arrangement; play with placement rearranging the torn parts on the background before final gluing.

5. For the pop-up 3D effect, make "stilts" by folding paper into rectangle shapes. Place the stilts underneath the shapes as you glue them to the background.

6. Optional: Add final touch-ups to your masterpiece with watercolors. A pop-up frame can be attached to the background by gluing stilts underneath the frame, letting the paper assemblage and frame pop out.



1.



2.



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