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# "Layered Landscape Collage"



*Time from start to finish = 1 hour*

You will need the following materials:

- Watercolor paper (9x12 inches)
- Various decorative papers
- Pencil/ Sharpie
- Gluestick
- X-acto knife (or scissors if you prefer)
- Cutting mat (or a piece of scrap cardboard to protect your surface)
- Crayons

**Brief project description:** This layered landscape technique takes the guesswork out of creating depth and adds fun patterns for a bright, detailed artwork.

Find a digital copy here: <https://www.artsplus.org/resources/visual-art-resources>

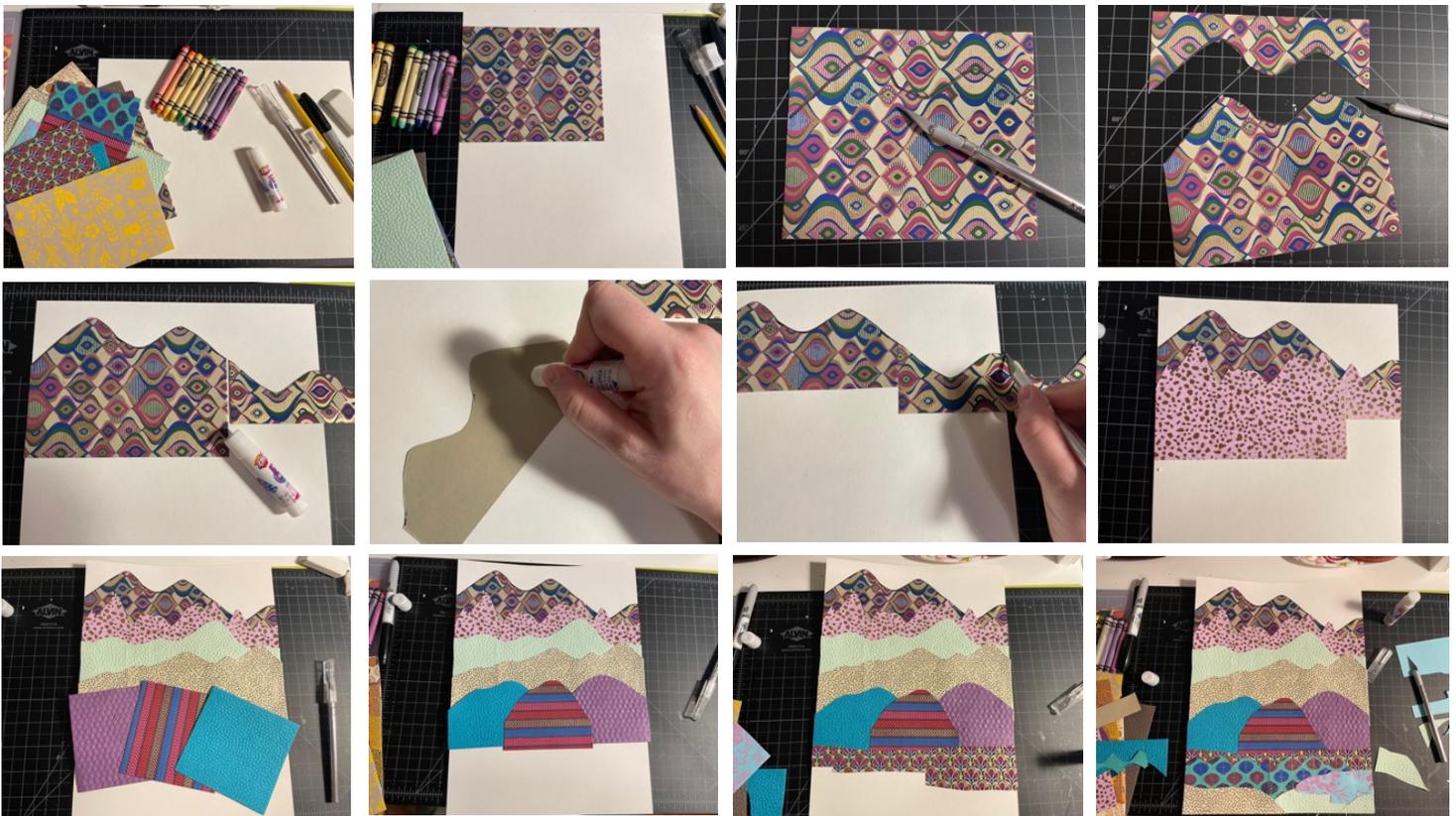
**A few helpful tips before you start:**

- Cutting with an X-acto: Scissors are a good option for this project, but an X-acto knife will give clean, precise cuts and can make the process a bit faster. Make sure when you are cutting with an X-acto knife that you 1: protect the surface you are working on, 2: never cut towards your hand, 3: use the sharp edge of the blade and not the tip. The sharp edge surface of the blade is intended to glide along the item you are cutting rather than using the tip. The tip can break off if pressed down upon too firmly!

# PART 1: Layering the landscape

## Steps

- #1: Set up your workspace with a cutting surface. Gather together your decorative papers and begin to choose patterns and colors you would like to work with. Large pieces work well, but smaller pieces can be assembled together also. Lay your 9x12 watercolor paper vertically and start planning out your landscape by laying out the decorative papers to determine what order you would like them to be in.
- #2: We will be working from the top towards the bottom. In a landscape the top area often appears to be furthest from the eye and is called the background. When you look at mountains in the distance, they tend to sit higher on the horizon than closer objects and this is the same for 2-D artworks as well. The middle area is called the middle-ground and the bottom area is called the foreground, which contains objects that are closer to the eye.
- #3: Once you have chosen the first paper you want to use, take your pencil or sharpie and draw out a line that resembles mountains. This can be smooth and flowing or sharp and jagged. Using your X-acto knife (and the tips on page 2) cut along the line you have drawn. If the piece you have cut is not as wide as your paper, simply use the other half of the cut piece to fill in the extra space. Coat the back of your cut decorative paper with glue using your gluestick and glue it close to the top of your white watercolor paper. Trim any parts that hang over the edge using your X-acto knife.
- #4: Continue this process down the page, overlapping each new layer with the previous one. As you work, try to alternate 'busy' designs and patterns with solid colors or more neutral patterns. Vary your cut lines from jagged to smooth, from subtle curves to extreme arches and dips. As you approach the bottom, make your sections become more and more narrow and your cut lines more flat and straight. This will mimic actual land terrain. You can even add 'water' sections. Do this until you reach the bottom of the page.



# PART 2: Adding depth and detail

## Steps

- #1: Now that you have the layers of your landscape glued down, it's time to enhance the effect of the layers and add some finishing details.
- #2: Using your crayons, add color and blending effects onto the top blank portion of your paper. For the example, cool colors of blues, greens, and purples were used to match the colors of the paper layers. Using light pressure, apply your first color to a portion of the white paper. With a different color, directly underneath your first color, overlap the two colors with light pressure. Continue this with as many colors as you'd like and slowly start adding more and more pressure as you go over the layers several times with each color. You can use a white crayon to help blend the colors as well by going over the colors with hard pressure.
- #3: Once the sky area is complete, use dark colors of crayons to shadow the areas between each layer of paper. Where one layer overlaps another, add a small amount of crayon color to the layer underneath (although it will be 'above' the other layer on the layout of the page).
- #4: Finally, using your leftover decorative paper, add small details at the bottom of the page. You could add animals, flowers, buildings, trees, or anything you desire. Keep in mind that smaller objects will be higher on the page and appear further in the distance. Once you've finished your piece, make sure everything is glued down securely and enjoy your colorful and patterned landscape!

