

Developing Sketchbooks Online workshop with Dionne Swift

Found and Abstracted

Today's exercise helps us to justify all that time we spend browsing through magazines...take a look...

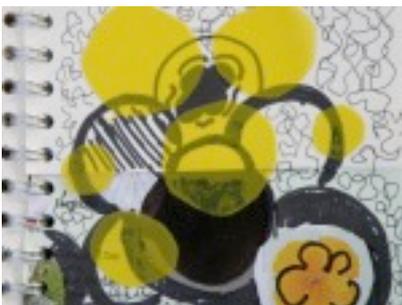
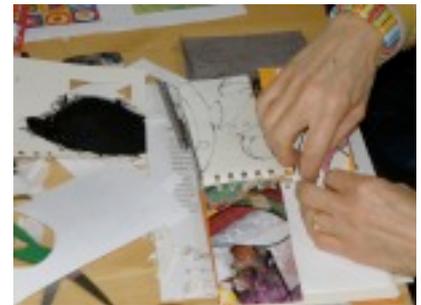
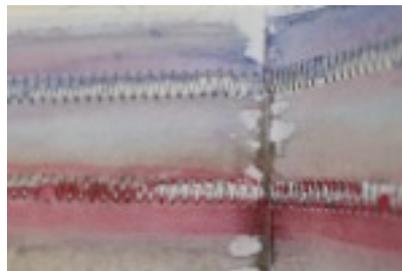


TASKS

- Select a series of interesting surfaces and images from your magazines – try not to get too distracted!
- Rip and cut circular/hoop shapes from these and stick them to an A4 sheet of paper – in fact any size of paper would do; coloured or white
- Turn this piece of paper over so that you can randomly cut 1 or 2 sketchbook pages from your basic collage.
- You can perforate these pages using a template page and your individual hole cutter and add them to your book, cutting them in half as you go so you have skinny pages [cut half way up the perforations]

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- Now doodle over the images, extending over the plain paper areas too. Use a variety of fine nibbled pens and markers to explore and expand the imagery you have been 'given'.
- Re-draw your new playful imagery leaving out some of the detail or developing extra.
- Admire your new design work!



SUGGESTIONS

- You can make this even more 'random' and serendipitous an exercise, by asking a friend to find magazine images for you...
- Explore a range of media and consider using collage for this exercise too.

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MACHINE STITCHING ON PAPER

Normally using a sewing machine on paper leads to disaster, with the paper being chewed up almost immediately or the needle perforations cut straight through. To avoid this scrunch up the paper into a tight ball and really squeeze it in your hands, open it back out and repeat again. You need to do this 6 or 7 times until the size/coating on the paper is broken and the paper fibres have softened – they take on a fabric type feel, a bit like a nubuck surface. I can work heavy free machine embroidery without free of ripping or holes

This exercise is meant to be playful; it's an illustration that inspiring imagery can derive from all sort of starting points and that our own personal taste and interests can find their own way into our creative work.

So my images came from 'Living North' – what did you use?