

Capturing Lives in Scotland's Communities

Week 3: Activities Video Transcript

Hi everyone! This week we are going to be looking at landscape paintings.

Before we chat about the activity itself, you might remember that in our introduction video from Week 1, we mentioned that for Part C of the Arts Award you have to create an Art Work.

You can choose any activity of the programme as your Part C art work but the important thing to remember is, whatever one you chose, you have to record evidence of its development.

This means taking pictures of it as you go along, rather than just the final piece, as well as of any sketches or planning you might do.

So if you want the landscape collage to be your artwork for Part C, make sure you take pictures of your creating it as you go along, like I'm going to do to show in this video, or even if you're not sure yet but think you might decide later on to use it.

If you have any questions about that, you can ask your mentors and they'll be happy to help.

Activity: Landscape Collage

You will need:

A sheet of paper

Pencil

Scissors

Recycled materials (magazines/leaflets/cardboard boxes)

Found materials (leaves, twigs)

Glue/cellotape



The art of collage has a long history: the National Galleries of Scotland in Edinburgh recently put on an exhibition called 'Cut & Paste: 400 years of Collage'.



Landscape collages in particular seem to be very popular, check out some of the work of the artist

Eileen Downes

UMIS University Museums in Scotland

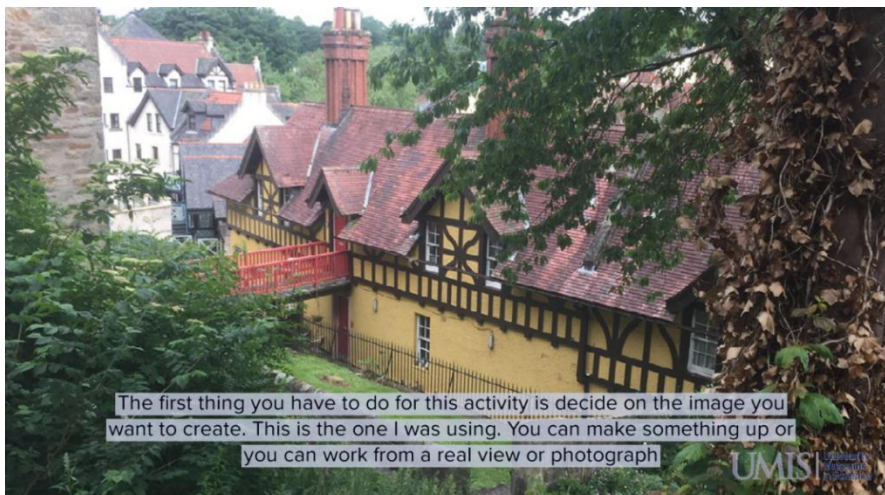
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The first thing you have to do for this activity is decide on the image you want to create. This is the one I was using. You can make something up or you can work from a real view or photograph.



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You might want to use one of the photographs you took last week (for example the one that shows what is unique about where you live).

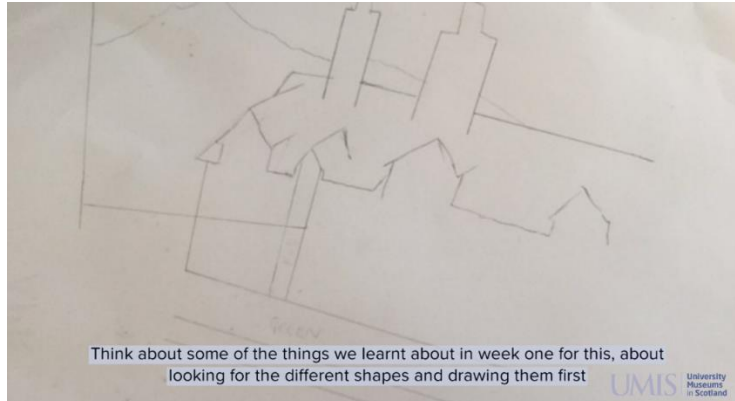
Before you start your work, some questions to ask are:

What strikes you most about the landscape? What mood does it evoke?

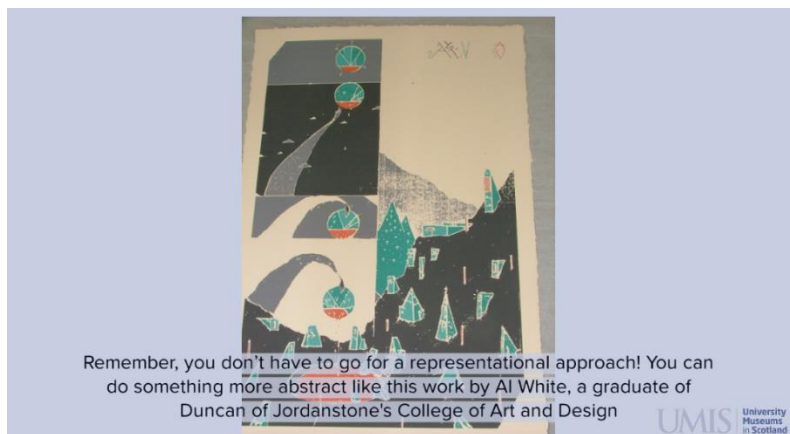
What will be the main idea of your work? What will the focal point be?

What colour palette are you going to use?

Once you have decided what view you want to create for your landscape collage, the first thing you want to do is sketch out the outline on paper.



Think about some of the things we learnt about in week 1 for this, about looking for the different shapes and drawing them first.

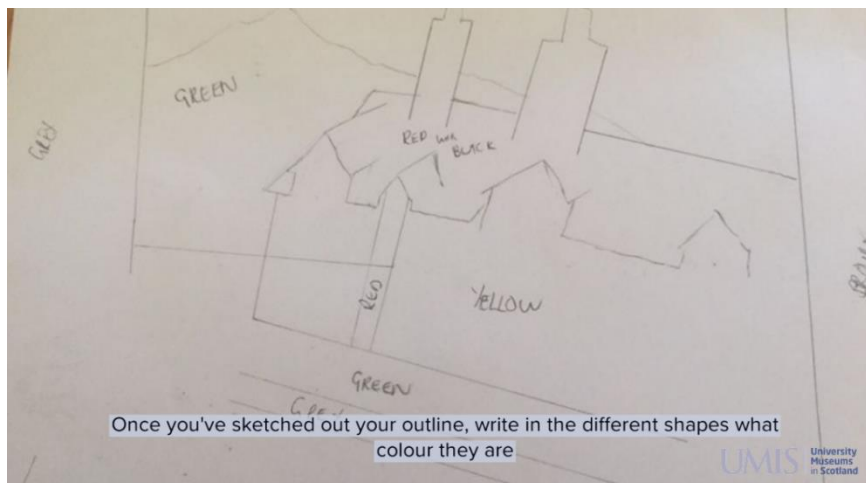


Remember, you don't have to go for a representational approach! You can do something more abstract like this work by Al White, a graduate of Duncan of Jordanstone's College of Art and Design.



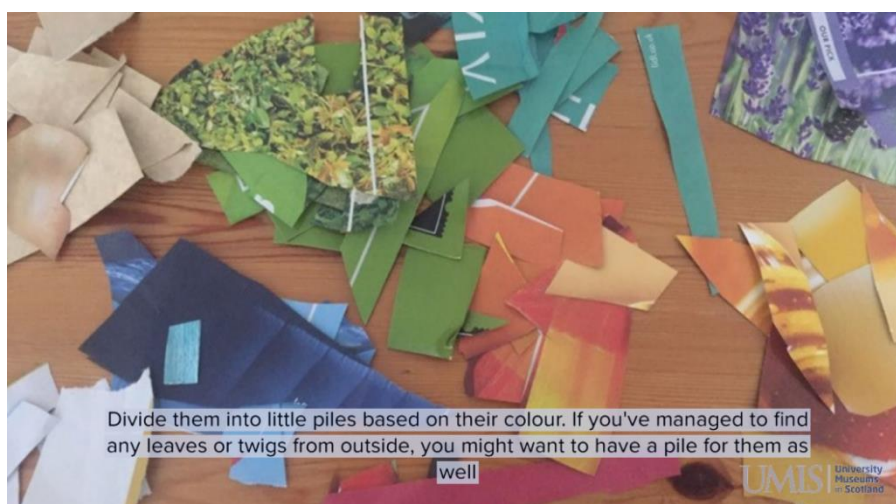
Or this painting by Joan Eardley from the University of Stirling's collection.

Once you've sketched out your outline, write in the different shapes what colour they are.

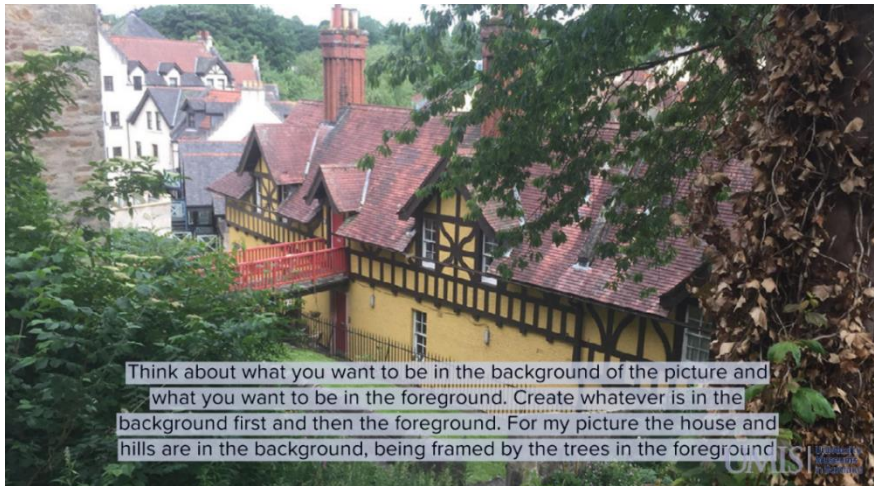


Now comes the part which is my favourite! Take any magazines, leaflets or cereal boxes you've been able to find and cut them up into squares.

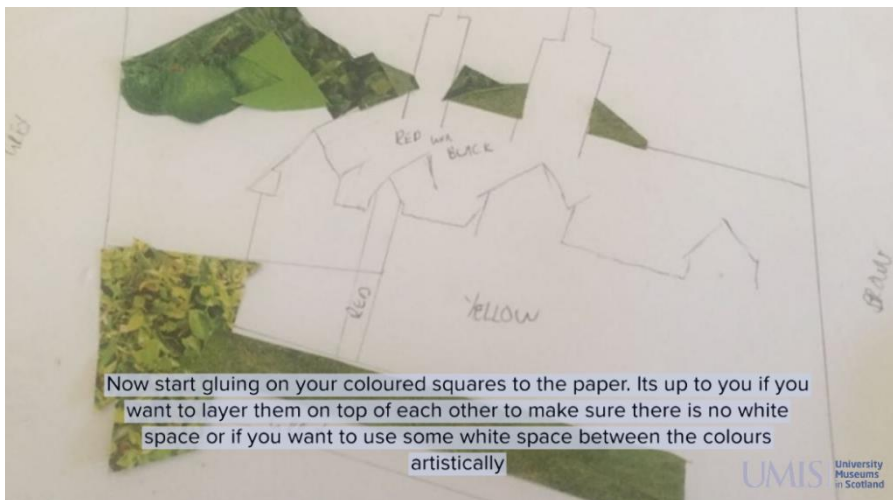
For example, I've raided our recycling box and will use some cardboard boxes. The magazines that you can pick up for free in supermarkets are also great for this. They have lots of different colours on them which is really useful for this activity.



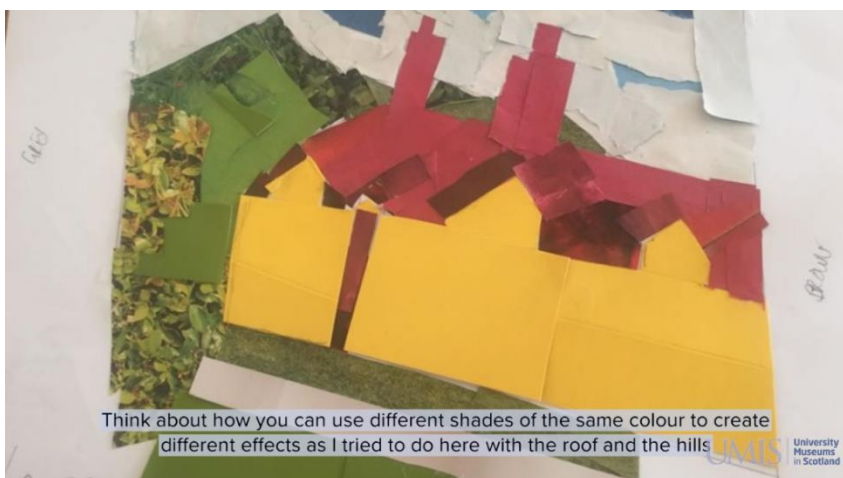
Sort the square into little piles based on their colour. The more shades you can get of each colour, the better! If you've managed to find any leaves or twigs from outside, you might want to have a pile for them as well.



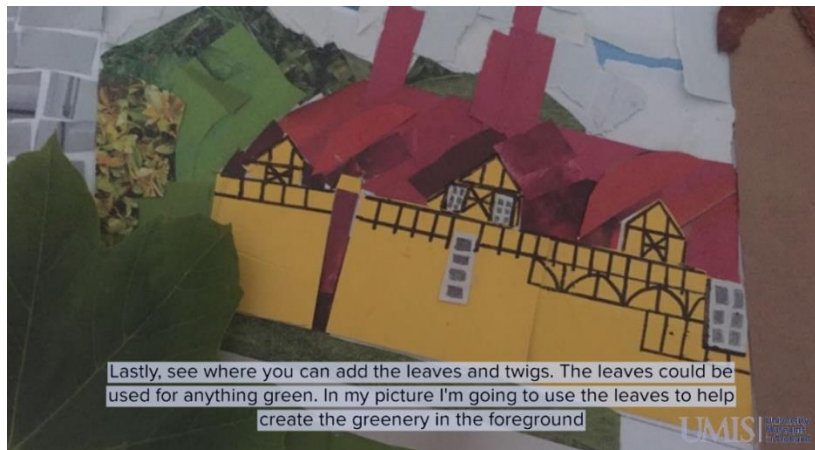
Think about what you want to be in the background of the picture and what you want to be in the foreground. Create whatever is in the background first and then the foreground. For my picture the house and hills are in the background, being framed by the trees in the foreground.



Now start gluing on your coloured squares to the paper. Its up to you if you want to layer them on top of each other to make sure there is no white space or if you want to use some white space between the colours artistically.



Think about how you can use different shades of the same colour to create different effects as I tried to do here with the roof and the hills.



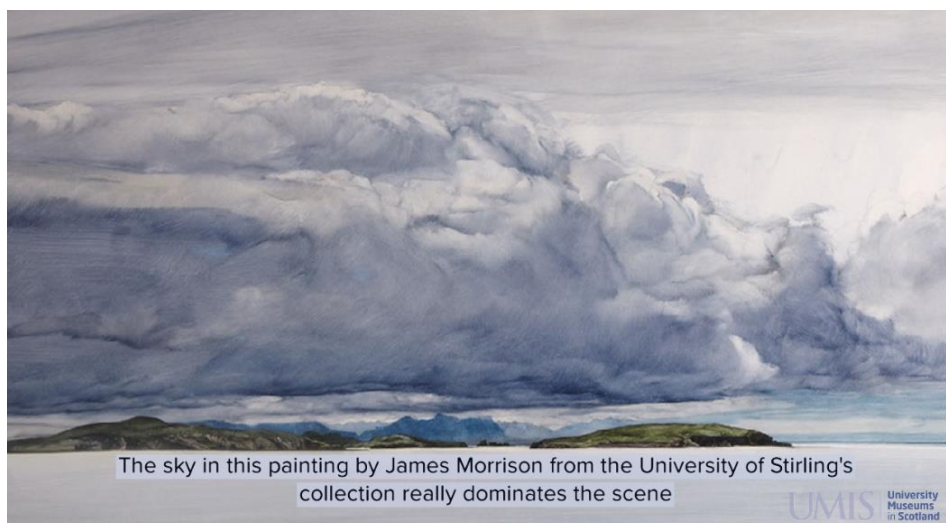
You can add the smaller details afterwards, using pencil or pen if doing so by collage is too fiddly.

Lastly, see where you can add the leaves and twigs. The leaves could be used for anything green. In my picture I'm going to use the leaves to help create the greenery in the foreground.

Development Ideas

If you do have access to more art materials, why not try experimenting with a mixed media approach?

For example if you have watercolour paint, you could try painting the sky before putting anything on top of it.

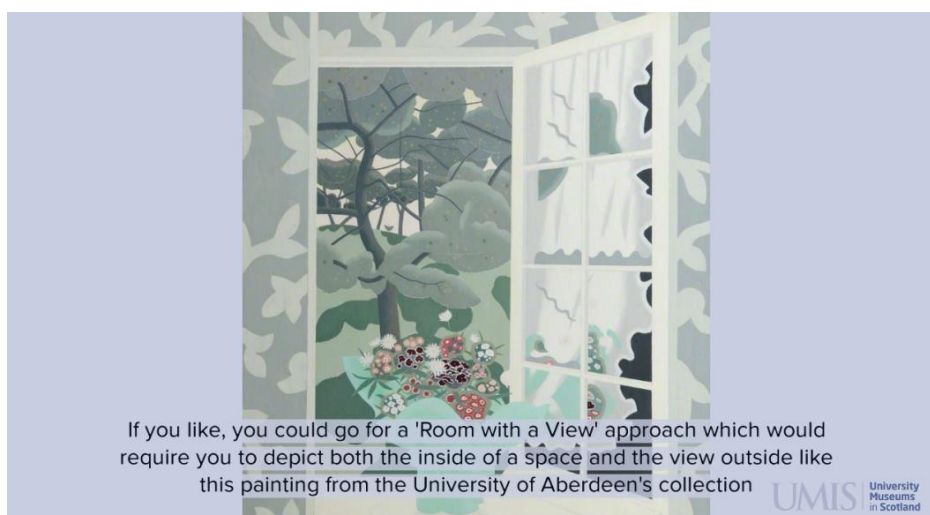


The sky in this painting by James Morrison from the University of Stirling's collection really dominates the scene.



Or if you prefer, you could do your whole painting in watercolour like this painting from the Recording Scotland Collection at the University of St Andrews

With acrylic paint, you could think about different printmaking techniques you can use, for example, you can cut squares of cardboard to print bricks or even use lego bricks. You could also try printing using bubble wrap for clouds to create different textures in your work.

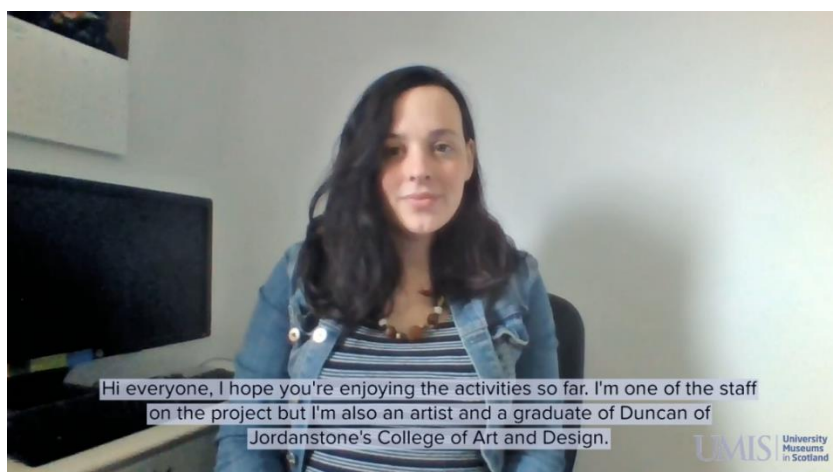


If you like, you could go for a 'Room with a View' approach which would require you to depict both the inside of a space and the view outside like this painting from the University of Aberdeen's collection.

Think about if you want the outside and inside to match or contrast.

Finally, you could also think about trying to represent the effects of climate change in your work - this is one of the themes for the National Galleries of Scotland Art Competition this year, which is open to 11-14 year olds and which we'll be encouraging you to enter if eligible.

For example, you could have one half of the picture with the landscape as it looks now and one half as it will look in the future if global warming continues. Or any other creative ideas you can come up with!



Finally, we're going to end our video today with a few words from Tamara Richardson, Community and Public Engagement Coordinator at Duncan of Jordanstone's College of Art and Design.

Hi everyone, I hope you're enjoying the activities so far. I'm one of the staff on the project but I'm also an artist and a graduate of Duncan of Jordanstone's College of Art and Design.

I just wanted to talk to you a little bit about Week 3's project: the landscape, and capturing that in the medium of collage and mixed media.

With my art, I really like working abstract and minimalist and being quite expressive with what I do so it's not typical for me to try and create a visual likeness of a landscape in a work it's more likely that I would create something more abstract.

I just wanted to remind you guys that you're not in school and you're not required to create something that perfectly visually represents the landscape that you're depicting, you can be really experimental and expressive with it.

Think of yourself like athletes, only you're artists and very similar to athletes, artists need to train before they have their final moment in the Olympics or at a football match.

With artists the way that we train is by practising and a really good way to practise is to keep a sketchbook and just to make really quick rough sketches or note down your ideas.

For this week because we're doing collage, tear things up, stick them down really roughly, just to give you an idea and start experimenting with ripped edges or crinkled things or if you prefer to cut more neatly.

So you can really have a play about and use your sketchbook. Don't get rid of these if you think 'oh that's rubbish', we really want to see that development and how you develop that final picture that you create.

When you see artworks in galleries it's really really unlikely that the artist has just come with that idea, fresh out their head and just gone for it onto the canvas or onto a piece of paper. It's more likely that they've got a series of paintings or sketchbooks that led to that final masterpiece.

And so that's what we're looking for from this project and from Week 3. Let's see the ideas behind the work that you've created and we can then use that as evidence in putting you forward for your award.