

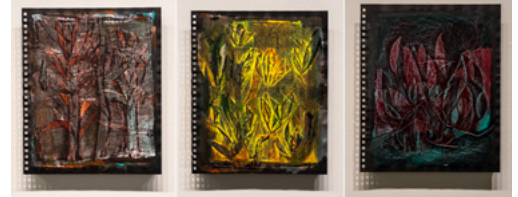
MICRO-ARTMAKING LESSON

Inspired by Melissa Oresky's [Night Lives](#) series, featured in the exhibition [In Living Color](#)

MIXED-MEDIA COLLAGE AND TEXTURE RUBBING

Influenced by nature, [Melissa Oresky](#) explores the shapes, colors, and lives of plants through her work. Take a moment to analyze Oresky's [Night Lives](#) series guided by the following prompts:

- Oresky creates layered collages using organic—irregular—shapes cut from a variety of materials. Explore the series looking for shapes that emerge within the positive and negative spaces. Positive space refers to the subject—the topic of focus, such as leaves—while negative space refers to the areas between and around the subject.
- [Look closely](#) at the substrate, or surface, that the artwork is created on. Why do you think Oresky chose to use black paper with the fringe still attached?
- Each work in the series is mounted on foam core, creating distance between the artwork and the wall. How do you think it would change your viewing experience if Oresky had framed the works under glass?



Melissa Oresky, from left to right: *Night Lives 3, 4, and 2*, 2020. Acrylic, string, collage, vinyl, crayon, and graphite on black paper, mounted on foam core panel. Courtesy of the artist.

Step 1: Make a list of things that inspire you. Select one to focus on for your project.

Use this space to draw colors and shapes your chosen topic reminds you of.

Step 2: Select a color of poster board to use for your substrate. Cut the board into a shape of your choice.

- How does the shape relate to your chosen topic of focus from Step 1? Consider what kind of shadows will be cast by the edges of the board.

Step 3: Cut out shapes related to your subject from paper, fabric, aluminum foil, and other materials.

Step 4: Use glue to collage the shapes onto your substrate.

- Try overlapping and rotating shapes to create variety and a sense of depth in your design.

Step 5: Rub over the surface of your collage with crayons or oil pastels to reveal textures within your work.

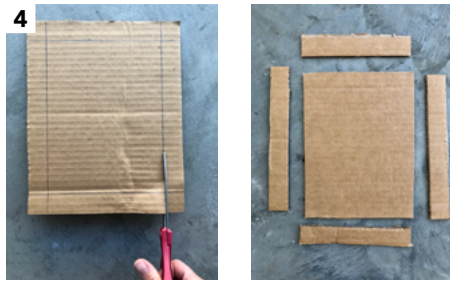
- Consider how the colors relate to your subject—such as red, yellow, and orange representing warmth or sunshine.
- Notice how halos of color form around the raised, or relief, areas of your collage. Try overlapping colors and mediums—artmaking materials—to create new colors and a more complex surface.

Step 6 (optional): See reverse side for guided instructions to create a cardboard frame for mounting your work.

Step 7: Photograph your work and share it with us on Instagram by tagging us at [#universitygalleriesisu](#).



1 You will need scissors, a ruler, a pencil, and a piece of cardboard the same size or larger than your artwork.



4 Use your scissors to cut along the lines you drew in step 3. You should now have 5 pieces of cardboard—the center piece and four framing pieces.



6 Use glue or tape to adhere your cardboard frame (face down) to the center of the back of your artwork.



2 On the cardboard, trace around your artwork. Use scissors to cut along your outline.



5 Carefully place a line of hot glue along the length of one of your four framing pieces. While the glue is still hot, press against the outside of the center piece.



7 Hang your artwork on two parallel thumbtacks. Or use a hole punch to make two holes near the top of your frame. Tie string through the holes to hang your work from an individual pin or nail.



3 Use your ruler to measure one inch in from all sides. Draw lines to connect your measurement marks.



Repeat for the other three sides until your cardboard looks like the example above.

SELECTIONS FROM THE PRESS RELEASE

The Teen Art Group was founded in 2018 at University Galleries by director and chief curator Kendra Paitz, with support from the Illinois Prairie Community Foundation–Mirza Arts and Culture Fund. Each academic year, up to fifteen students from Bloomington High School participate in professional development activities, take field trips, and curate an exhibition. The 2021-2022 cohort was led by Kendra Paitz; Monica Estabrook, Bloomington High School art teacher; and Tanya Scott, University Galleries' curator of education.

In Living Color presents works by artists the students learned about during the program. First, the students identified issues they were most concerned with, including gender, environment, outer space, anime, portraiture, abstraction, family, and racial issues. Then, the program leaders presented relevant artists and the group discussed. Originally, the group planned to select one artist to invite for a solo exhibition, but as they researched the artists and thought about relationships among the works, they decided to invite several artists to participate in a group exhibition. The students selected each of the works and their placement in the exhibition layout. Exhibiting artists include: Aaron Caldwell, Jess T. Dugan, Fidencio Fifield-Perez, Jin Lee, Melissa Oresky, Rashod Taylor, and Selina Trepp.

SOCIAL MEDIA

