

Demonstration

October 4, 2021

Mary "Mo" Mosyjowski - "Collage"

The featured artist for October's meeting was multi-talented artist, **Mary "Mo" Mosyjowski** demonstrating her **Collage Methods** to a crowd of close to 25 members. **Mo**, as she likes to be called, traveled all the way from Akron, OH to join us. Not limiting her artwork to just one medium, she boldly experiments with different combinations of mediums creating works that are unique and transcendent. Her many years of experience in watercolor, acrylic, collage, oil, batik, gelli plate printing, etc., lead her to maintain a successful teaching career. Currently she is an instructor at the Cuyahoga Valley Art Center, where she teaches several workshops in acrylics and alcohol ink. She is also a signature member of Akron Society of Artists and Group 10 Gallery and has won numerous awards across the region for her artwork. Most notably she won the People's Choice Award within the annual Kaleidoscope exhibition at Summit ArtSpace for her altered book of self-portraits.



Mo started by sharing a number of her completed collages showing us the variety of what can be done. "You don't have to know how to draw," she said. Collage is abstracted and non-representational. Just about anything that can be glued down is 'fair game' for collage. She collects and saves everything, from scraps of old watercolors, wallpapers, corrugated paper, ribbons, even puzzle pieces, most of which she organizes by color. The Thrift stores in her area are a good source for items to use, especially old framed pictures. "I save everything!"...including styrofoam food trays! We'll explain that later.



Mo's flat work surface was projected on the big screen for all to see thanks to Lee Peters' projection setup. She called herself 'scattered' and just goes with the flow, which was obvious as she showed us the numerous papers, stencils, prints, and whatnots that she brought with her for the demo collage. Joan asked, "Have you ever used confetti?" "No, not yet", was her answer.



Decked out in her artistic apron with a handy towel attached at the midpoint, she began by gluing stuff together on her board in what seemed to be a random fashion, but really it was to 'make it flow'. "Be

brave and rip up your stuff". The audience participated by encouraging Mo to 'go for it' and rip up what seemed like a very nice watercolor. For her demo collage, Mo focused on a blue and brown color scheme. "It's easy kids." She went on to say, "Get brave, slap some color on the paper and brighten it up. Play, make mistakes. Then, cover 'em up."



Like she said previously, "I save everything" including styrofoam meat and veggie trays. She uses them to create stencils by sketching in a design using a toothpick, ballpoint pen, pencil or a small screwdriver. Then, she roughs up the surface with a fine sandpaper. Applying watercolor paint to the surface, she stencils a print on any paper she has available...with amazing results. Btw, she uses a 50¢ tin of watercolor paint and a brush that she bought at Marcs years ago! The audience helps her decide where to add various pieces of paper. We groaned when she covered up a beautiful stenciled scrap with another piece of paper. It's obvious by the 'somewhat' finished collage that Mo has an amazing sense of design and composition. She likes to let the collage sit for a while. "It will tell you when it's done." She concluded by saying, "Don't think too much, then it's not fun anymore"....and that's the nature of collage.



Thank you, Mo, for an enjoyable and at times, humorous presentation. As one of our members commented, "you held us spellbound throughout the whole program." Per Eddie, "Wasn't Mo a hoot?"

Tips:

- Use a matte medium, like Golden or Liquitex, for the glue, as it dries clear. When asked about the drying time, Mo said "that's a technical question. You are asking the wrong person!"
- Apply the matte medium with a wide, stiff oil painting brush. She repurposes plastic mayonnaise squeeze bottles with matte medium for easy application.
- Tear paper towards you to get a light/white edge; away from you for a darker edge.
- Use canvas board, card stock, watercolor paper for the collage surface/base. "Nothing is sacred" per Mo. She finds old framed artwork, repurposes the unwanted picture board as her collage surface. Benefit...her finished artwork is already framed!
- Use a brayer or plastic wallpaper scraper to remove bubbles and to make the paper adhere to the surface without wrinkling.

Thank you also to our evening hosts, **Joan Milligan and Sue Herrle**, for their Halloween-themed table of refreshments. It was Joan who decorated the pumpkins so artistically. We enjoyed so many delicious treats - sourdough scones - pumpkin spice and caramel apple, fresh fruit cup with cream cheese fluff, GF brownies, assorted cheeses and crackers, chocolate cookie bombs, and Halloween candies. The 'fluff' on the fresh fruit was a big hit. Here's the recipe: 8 oz block of cream cheese, room temp, mixed with 12 oz jar Jet-Puffed Marshmallow creme, add 1/2 teaspoon vanilla and sprinkle in 1/4 to 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon to taste.

