

BOUQUET * COLLAGE

Topics: color, mark-making, texture, painting, collage, illustration

Supplies:

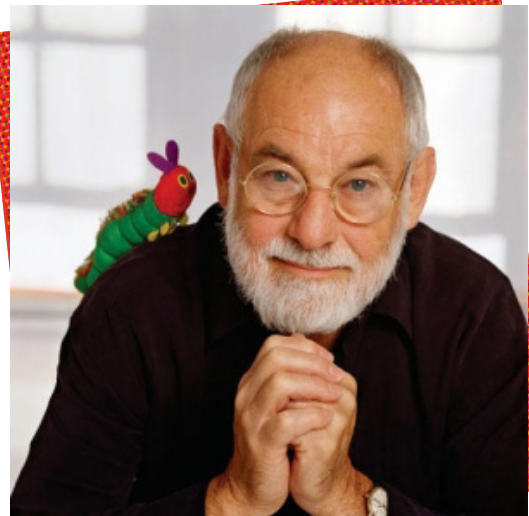
- paper (plain white, newspaper, magazine pages, or paper bags)
- paint
- a cup for water
- paintbrushes
- scissors
- glue
- optional: a fork and old toothbrush

Are there flowers in your neighborhood? Maybe they are for sale at the store, growing in a park, or on display in a vase at your home. A lot of people like flowers because they are bright and colorful!



Vincent Van Gogh

Painted by John Russell, 1886



Eric Carle



VINCENT VAN GOGH

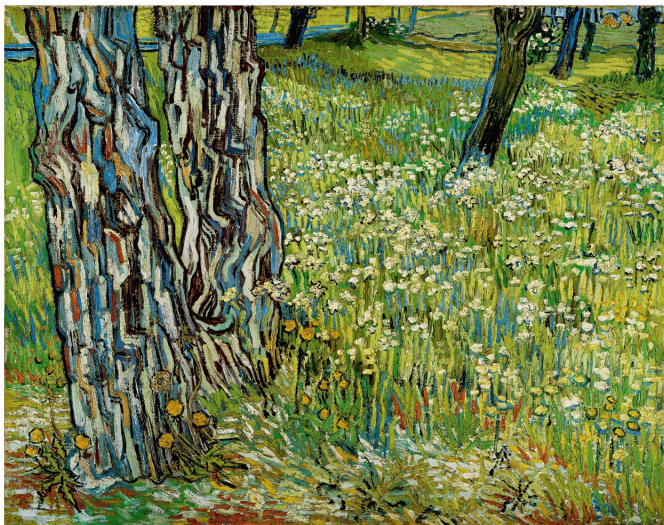
Vincent Van Gogh was an artist who painted flowers. He also painted lots of other things. Van Gogh was born in the Netherlands in 1843. Take a look at some of his paintings:



Sunflowers c/o Van Gogh Museum



The Starry Night c/o The Museum of Modern Art



Tree Trunks in the Grass c/o The Kröller-Müller Museum



Landscape from Saint-Rémy c/o Ny Carlsberg Glyptotek

What do you notice about Van Gogh's paintings? How do they make you feel? Van Gogh's paintings are called **post-impressionism**. This means that he was more interested in communicating a feeling with his paintings than making sure they looked realistic.

VINCENT VAN GOGH

Van Gogh used mark-making and color to create texture as well as express movement and emotion. When you look closely, you can see each individual mark that he made with his paint brush. What colors can you see?



Self-Portrait c/o The Art Institute of Chicago

COLOR WHEEL

In Van Gogh's self portrait (click [here](#) to zoom in really close!), the blue background has orange spots and his red beard has bits of green. These colors are called complementary colors. **Complementary colors** are opposite of one another on a color wheel.



Colors that are next to each other on a color wheel are called **analogous colors**. Can you spot any analogous colors in Van Gogh's self portrait?



ERIC CARLE

Eric Carle is an artist who also uses mark-making to create texture. Eric Carle is an illustrator. An **illustrator** is somebody who makes pictures that tell a story. There are many different ways to tell stories with pictures. Some illustrators paint their pictures or draw them with a pen. Others use a camera and some even use clay. Eric Carle is an illustrator who tells stories by making collages for books. **Collage** is a type of art that is made when you adhere different papers and objects to a surface.



All images copyright Eric Carle

To make his collages, Eric Carle cuts paper into shapes and glues them onto a background. He uses papers, called **paste papers**, that he paints with different colors and textures. Watch a [video](#) (1:50-2:40) of Eric Carle making paste papers in his studio. How does he use colors similarly to Van Gogh?

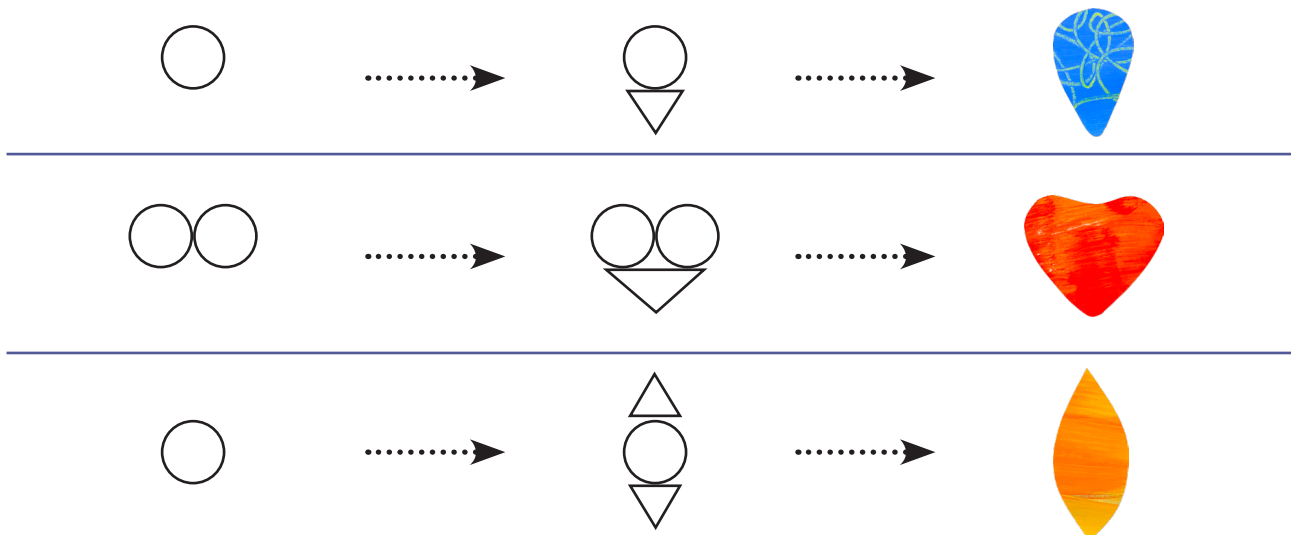
Let's make a bouquet collage!

1 What kind of flowers do you want to make? What colors will they be? Observe and take pictures of flowers in your neighborhood and home or ask an adult to look up photos online.

2 Begin by painting paste papers. Add different colors to each paper. How does your paper change when you mix complementary colors or analogous colors? Add texture by dipping your brush in water, using a dry brush, or running a fork through wet paint to make lines. Try using an old toothbrush to splatter paint. Dip the toothbrush in paint and run your finger along the bristles.

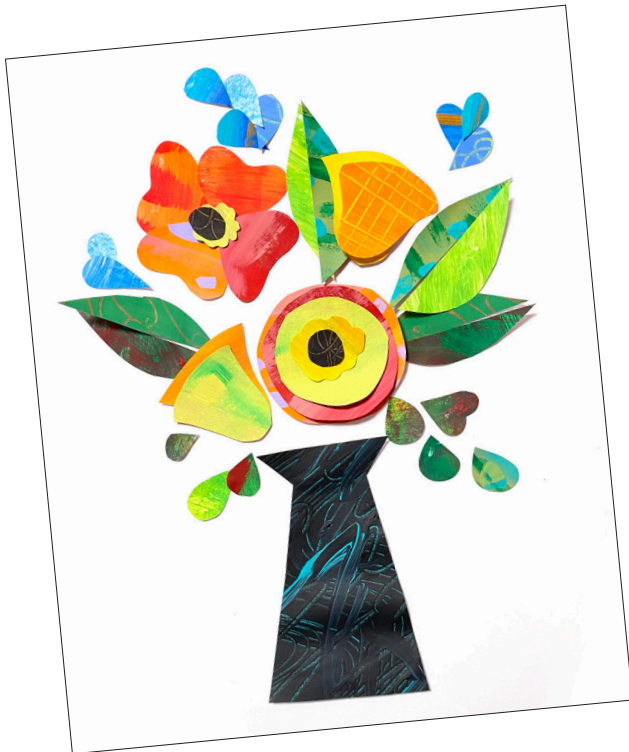


3 Once your paste papers have dried, use scissors to cut out flower petals. There are lots of different kinds of petals. Many can be drawn using just circles and triangles. What other petal shapes can you make?



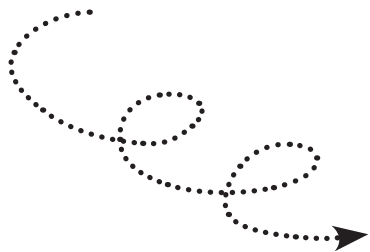
Let's make a bouquet collage!

- 4** Cut out other details like leaves and a vase.



- 5** Arrange your pieces on a background. If you don't have white paper, you can paint a piece of cardboard!

- 6** Use glue to attach your paste papers to the background. Add stems with paint!



REFLECTION

Eric Carle's favorite color is yellow. He said:

“If I use red and put another color in it, it stays red, and if I use blue and mix it with another color, it remains blue. But the minute that I put yellow into another color...it becomes muddy. So it's a challenge for me, and that's why yellow is my favorite color.”

Do you have a favorite color? What color is a challenge for you?



Take a look at your paper bouquet. What do you notice? How are your collage flowers different than if you had painted them with solid colors? Is there somebody you would like to give your flowers to? Flowers can be a nice way to say “thank you” or make someone you care about smile!

RESOURCES & SOURCES

Resources

Learn more about Eric Carle on his [website](#). Watch a [video](#) of him painting a mural with a broom!

Learn more about Vincent Van Gogh on the [website](#) for the Tate Modern in London. See more of his paintings [here](#).

Oge Mora is another collage artist who makes pictures by painting papers. Watch a [video](#) of her reading her book called *Saturday*. Christian Robinson also makes collages! Make a rainbow collage with him [here](#).

Sources

Carle, Eric. *What's Your Favorite Color?* New York: Henry Holt and Company, 2017. Print.

Eric Carle. "About Eric Carle." *Eric Carle*, Eric Carle, 27 Nov. 2019, eric-carle.com/about-eric-carle/.

"Vincent Van Gogh." *Google Arts & Culture*, Google, artsandculture.google.com/entity/vincent-van-gogh/m07_m2?categoryId=artist.

"Who Is Vincent Van Gogh? ." *Tate Kids*, Tate Museum, www.tate.org.uk/kids/explore/who-is/who-vincent-van-gogh.