

Mixed Media/Assemblage Course

By Anna Hersom, March 2024

Course objectives

This course aims to teach the basics of mixed media with particular emphasis on assemblage and 3D art. The participants will gain essential mixed media knowledge in a structured and supportive environment. By the end of the course, students will understand what surfaces mixed media can be created on, how to add texture, colour, embellishments, how to create a good composition and finally, how to seal and protect the created artwork.

Course contents

Week 1

- **Surfaces** - description of mixed media surfaces, how they differ in treatment and preparation.
- **Primers** - what are primers used for, what surface suits which primer, what form primers come in, how to apply them.
- **Tools** - what tools are used in mixed media, what are the differences between the tools, how to use tools safely and when is it appropriate to use a tool versus another method.
- **Adhesives** - types of adhesives, when to use which, dry time, finish, other use, advantages and disadvantages of each.

Week 2

- **Basic Texture** - different types of textures, how to achieve them, properties of each texture finish, importance of texture in mixed media. Week 2 will focus on texture techniques, and textured finish.

Week 3

- **Texture effects** – expansion of the texture techniques with unique finishes like rust and patina, coloured texture pastes, glitter souffles, embossing powders.

Week 4

- **Composition and colour** – understanding the rules of composition and basic principles – focal point, rule of thirds, golden spiral, importance of blank space, layering, colour palette and basics of colour theory.

Week 5

- **Mediums** – using different products and materials to create a mixed media composition, including metal, wood, resin casts, compressed paper, rice paper, beads, foam and natural materials.

Week 6

- **Colour and finish** – how to add colour to the composition, what colourants are available, how colour mediums work, how to blend colours.
- **Finishing touches** – working with glossing and matting agents, sealants

Course equipment

- Heat tool (provided by the tutor)
- Glue gun (provided by the tutor)
- Student kit – set of brushes, set of palette knives and glue sticks – can be provided by a tutor at a significant discount
- Canvases and additional substrates

Course progression

This course can progress into the Mixed Media Intermediate Course where more complex techniques are taught.