



Boating Trip

(ALTERED BOOK)

An altered book can be a journal with blank pages, a children's book or a steamy romance novel.

Look for old books at flea markets, antique stores, used book stores or libraries. The idea is that you can

take any book and turn it into art. You can use any of the techniques that I have demonstrated (as well as any additional techniques you can think of) to create an altered book. I would advise covering the pages with a coat of gesso before working on them to make each one more durable and ready to collage on. Then treat the book as your canvas and begin creating!

This collage exercise gives you an opportunity to practice plastic wrap crinkle, tissue paper layer and sketching in paint together. I'll be using an altered book as my surface for this project but you could do the same techniques in a cigar box, journal, on canvas or just about any surface you like.

TEXTURAL TECHNIQUES

PLASTIC WRAP CRINKLE (PAGE 22)

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SKETCHING INTO WET PAINT (PAGE 26)

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TISSUE PAPER LAYER (PAGE 28)



What you will need

- o old thrift store book
- o gesso or gel medium
- o 1-inch (25mm) brush
- o tissue paper
- o acrylic paint (Titan Buff, and additional colors)
- o pencil
- o paper towel
- o water
- o plastic wrap
- o copy images
- o colored paper
- o scissors
- o fine point pen
- o markers (optional)



ONE Choose a Book

Choose a book with a size and weight that you like and are comfortable with.



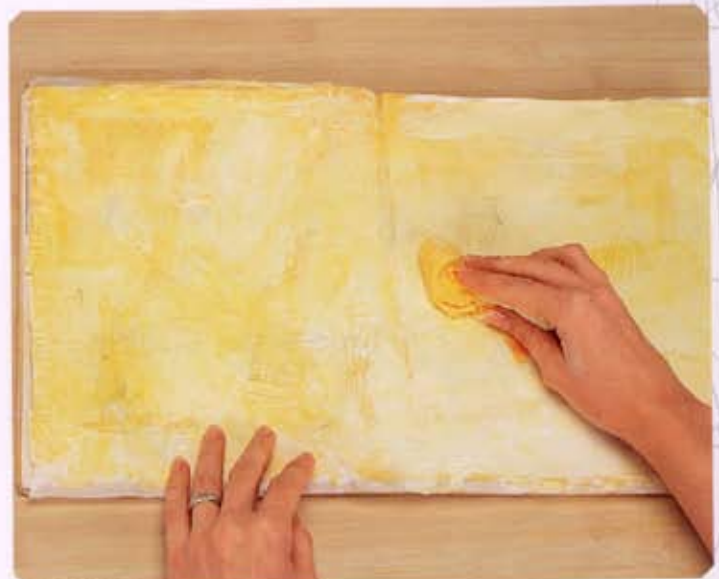
TWO Apply Gesso and Tissue

Open the book to a place where you would like to start working. Coat the pages with gesso or gel medium to prime. Add a sheet of tissue paper into the wet gesso and smooth it down a bit, but not completely; a few wrinkles are good!



THREE Sketch in Composition

Brush additional gesso or white paint over the tissue, and then map out your rough composition with a pencil in the wet paint. Here I am thinking that I might like my piece to have an ocean of water at the bottom and maybe a person in a boat. I mapped it out in rough pencil lines, into the wet paint, to test my idea.



FOUR Apply Paint and Blot Excess

Let everything dry and then trim off the excess tissue. Brush on yellow paint loosely over both of the pages and then blot off the excess with a paper towel.



FIVE Create Plastic Wrap Water Section

Brush on a watery layer of blue acrylic paint in the lower third of the book, following the pencil line you made earlier. Lay plastic wrap onto the wet paint, then smooch it around to create interesting shapes.



SIX Choose Figure for the Boat

After the paint has dried and you have removed the plastic wrap, add a wash of the same blue acrylic paint over the dried texture. This softens the texture a little bit. (I felt mine was too busy.) Cut a simple boat shape from colored paper and set the boat on top of the water. Choose one or two figures from your collection and decide who looks best in the boat. Try several options. First I thought I wanted two people in my boat, but then I decided I preferred one solitary grumpy looking man instead. I liked the humor of the grouchy man in the happy, polka-dotted boat.



SEVEN Place Boat Over Figure

Use your brush and gel medium to adhere the figure to the page. Add the boat on top of the figure and tone down the white text on the figure, using Titan Buff acrylic paint.



EIGHT Add Clouds

Loosely paint in fluffy clouds in the sky portion of the pages.



NINE Sketch Out More Elements

Practice adding other elements into your composition by sketching them on scrap pieces of paper. I felt that my man seemed a little lonely all by himself and maybe he needed another element. I placed a fish, drawn on a scrap of paper, on the page and decided it was just what he needed.



TEN Add Final Elements in Pen

Once you have a composition you like, begin drawing in the individual elements with a fine tip pen.



ELEVEN Color in With Marker

Color in some of the elements with paint or marker. I decided my fish needed a little color. I chose orange because it is close enough to red to add another warm element to the composition without repeating the red, and it did the trick.



Moment

Feeling stuck? Try experimenting with background techniques until you are inspired. Simply by working with the materials, you'll be coaxing your creative side to come out and play and soon you'll be on a roll.

What if you gave your composition a different boat? What about a sail added to the boat? A yacht? A tugboat? Could you have used another technique or different colors?

What if you filled the boat with people? What if the man had a funny hat? How would all these different elements change the mood of the piece? What else could the man have been fishing for?



WHAT IF...