

Fairy Tale #1 MIXED-MEDIA!



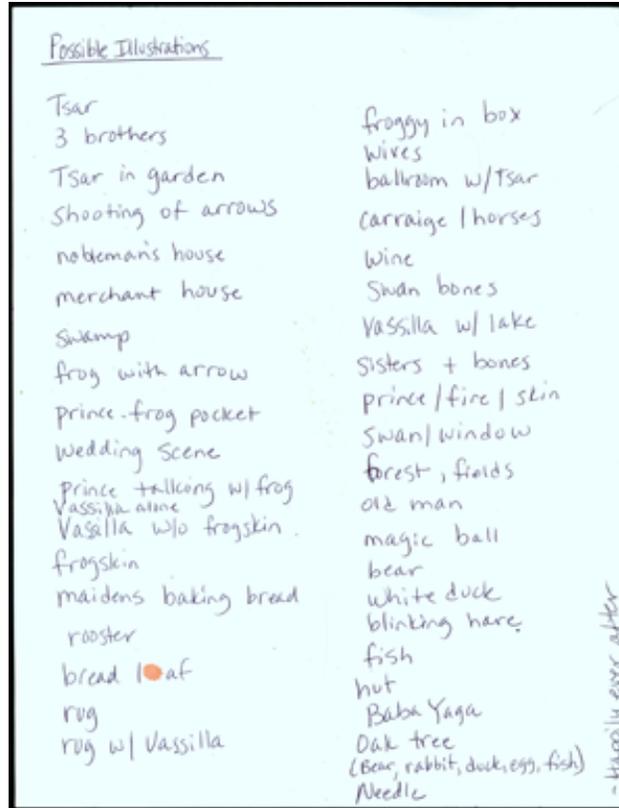
The Frog Princess

(The Tsarevna Frog)

Hi and welcome to the Mixed-Media portion of our first fairy tale! We will work with watercolor, pastel, and collage this month to create at least three small “spot” illustrations.

Have fun, and email me anytime! carla@carlasonheim.com.

Let's Begin!



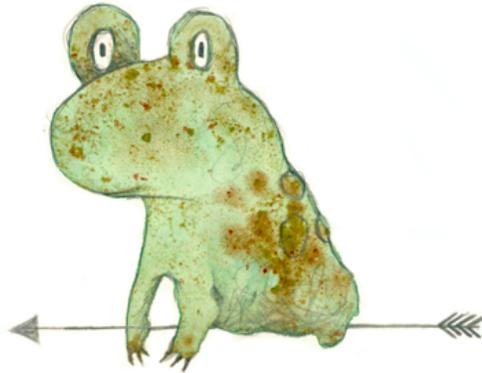
Assignment #1 (Optional)

List of Illustration Ideas

But first, just one more quick “reading/notetaking” assignment!

Go through the text one last time and write down every visual idea/scenario you can think of. These can overlap each other, meaning, you wouldn’t necessarily illustrate both “rug” and “rug with Vassilla,” but they are both there as options just in case you need to jog your memory should your first idea get morphed along the way, and you need to switch gears.

This is also be a first step towards storyboarding (a visual plan of the whole project), which we’ll do later in the year.



Assignment #2

Mixed-Media Spot Illustrations

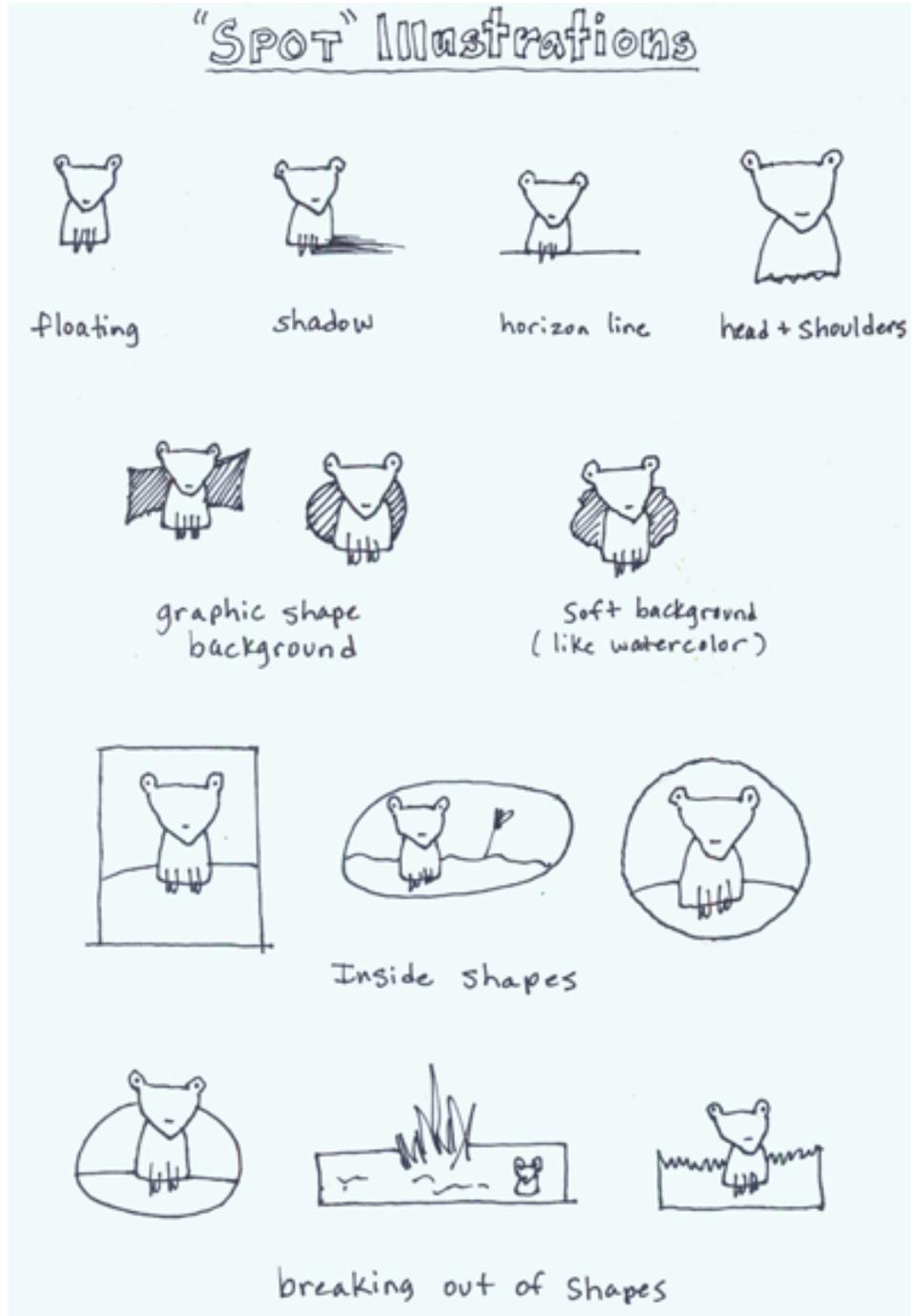
Your main task is to create three different “spot illustrations” for *The Frog Princess* using a combination of watercolor, pastel, and collage. The pieces should, in the end, work well together.

Spot Illustrations

A spot illustration is any small, free-floating piece of artwork illustrating text that stands on its own. It's usually small, and often placed on the page so that the text surrounds it, like this:



Besides just having the image “floating” in white space, as I tend to do, here are some other common ways to handle a spot illustration visually:



Planning Your Spot Illustrations

Many people find it helpful to do little thumbnail sketches of different scenes in their sketchbooks, like this...

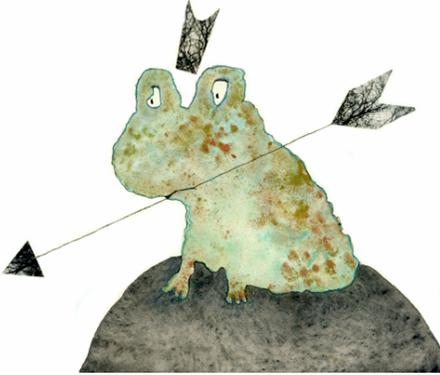


... and then pick one to render in mixed media.

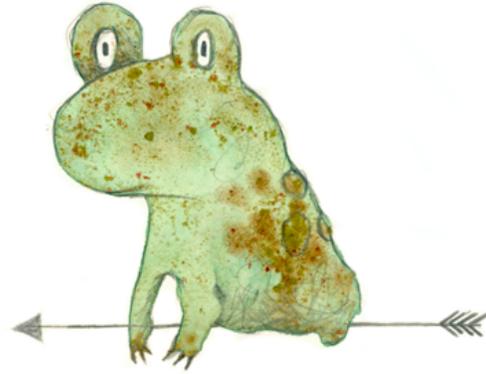
I do this, too. But often I will skip the thumbnails and head right to the watercolor stage without working out all of my ideas beforehand. This means there's a fairly high "failure rate," as I end up creating a lot of paintings that don't work (waste?), but this process has the benefit of giving me lots of practice with the different media!

For example...

I thought I had my frog worked out, so I started painting. Here are 7 different versions of the frog-and-arrow spot illustration I did one day:



1. Watercolor, pastel, collage, ink



2. Watercolor, pastel, pencil



3. Watercolor, pastel



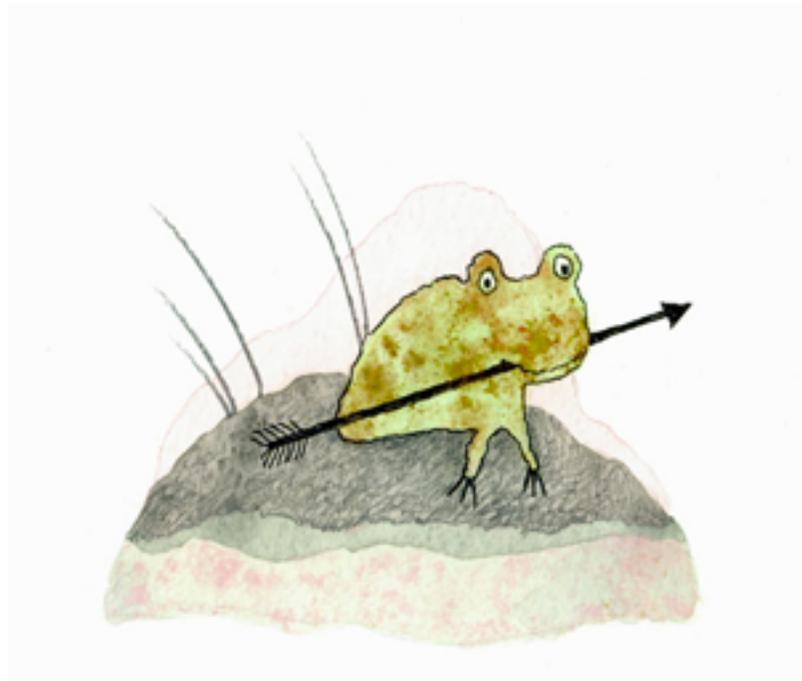
4. Watercolor, pastel, collage, pencil



5. Watercolor, pastel, pencil



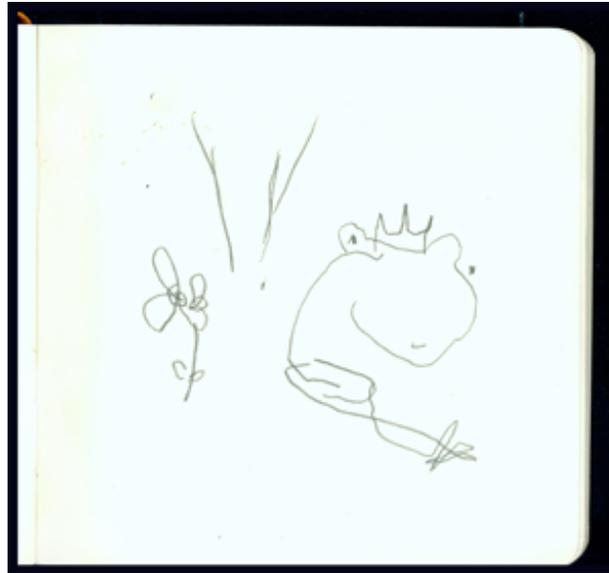
6. Photocopy, watercolor, pastel



7. Watercolor, pastel, pencil, ink

However, even after all of these, I wasn't happy with my frog, so during the following week I kept trying to "find" her.

One day I drew some frogs with my eyes closed and, wouldn't you know, there she was (sort of):



What I liked about the above frog was her wider-set eyes and the smaller “bumps,” so I did a few more sketches and I liked this frog much better!



So it might take a lot of versions to get to what you want! ;)

Mixed-Media Assignment

Create at least three spot illustrations using any combination of watercolor, pastel, and collage. The illustrations should relate to each other visually, as parts of a single story.



In your video I've shown the following techniques:

Watercolor:

Watercoloring with transparent layers

Pastels or PanPastels:

#1 - Pastel as first layer before watercoloring

#2 - Speckled Pastel

#3 - Pastel with Gel Medium

Collage:

As a last step to add texture, value



Use one, two, or all of these techniques to create your illustrations!

On the following pages is the stepped-out process of the painting completed in the video. For this particular way of working, I do usually work in the order shown; watercolor layers first, then pastels, and finally, collage.



Video Painting: Step by Step

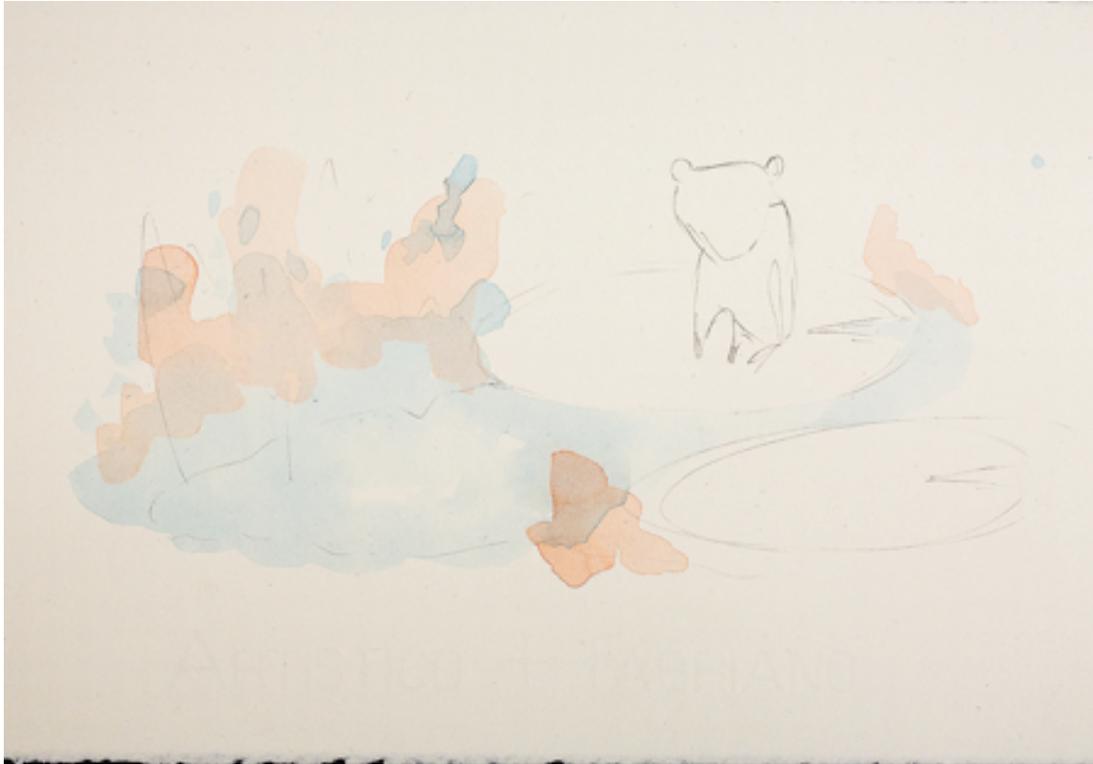


SUPPLIES NEEDED

- watercolors
- pencil, eraser, ink pen
- brushes (#12 round and 1/2" flat, or similar)
- pastels (PanPastels or chalk pastels)
- gel medium
- 3-6 pieces of watercolor paper, size of your choice (I tend to work somewhat small)
- scissors, glue stick, collage paper
- spray fixative

Step 1

Transparent Layers of Watercolor



Pencil sketch plus two layers of watercolor (orange-red and blue)

I started with a light sketch on your paper and used my eraser often, especially with the frog here. We've learned in the drawing portion that just the slightest movement of line can make a big difference, so I want to get it as right as possible before I begin painting.

When watercoloring I like to work in multiple transparent layers. This means that when they first go on the paper, the colors are very pale ("blah"), but by the end they will build up to brighter colors. Using lots of water, I mixed up a color of pale orange red and painted my areas. Once that layer was completely dry, I added a layer of pale blue over and around the first color, but I left some areas red. In the end, even though I only painted two colors, there are three on the piece!

Step 2

More Watercolor Layers and Pastel Technique #1



*Added a third layer of watercolor (yellow) to the grass area.
Created lily pads with a layer of blue pastel plus a layer of pink watercolor.*

I added a third layer of watercolor (gold-yellow) to the grassy areas, and the lily pads were created with pastel and watercolor:

Pastel Technique #1: Using a rag, rub some pastel pigment right onto the paper in the area you want that color. Next, add a watery transparent layer of watercolor on top. (The pastel might resist the watercolor at first, but it will eventually sink in if you work it long enough.)

Step 3

Pastel Technique #2



Added green speckled pastel to frog and flower areas.

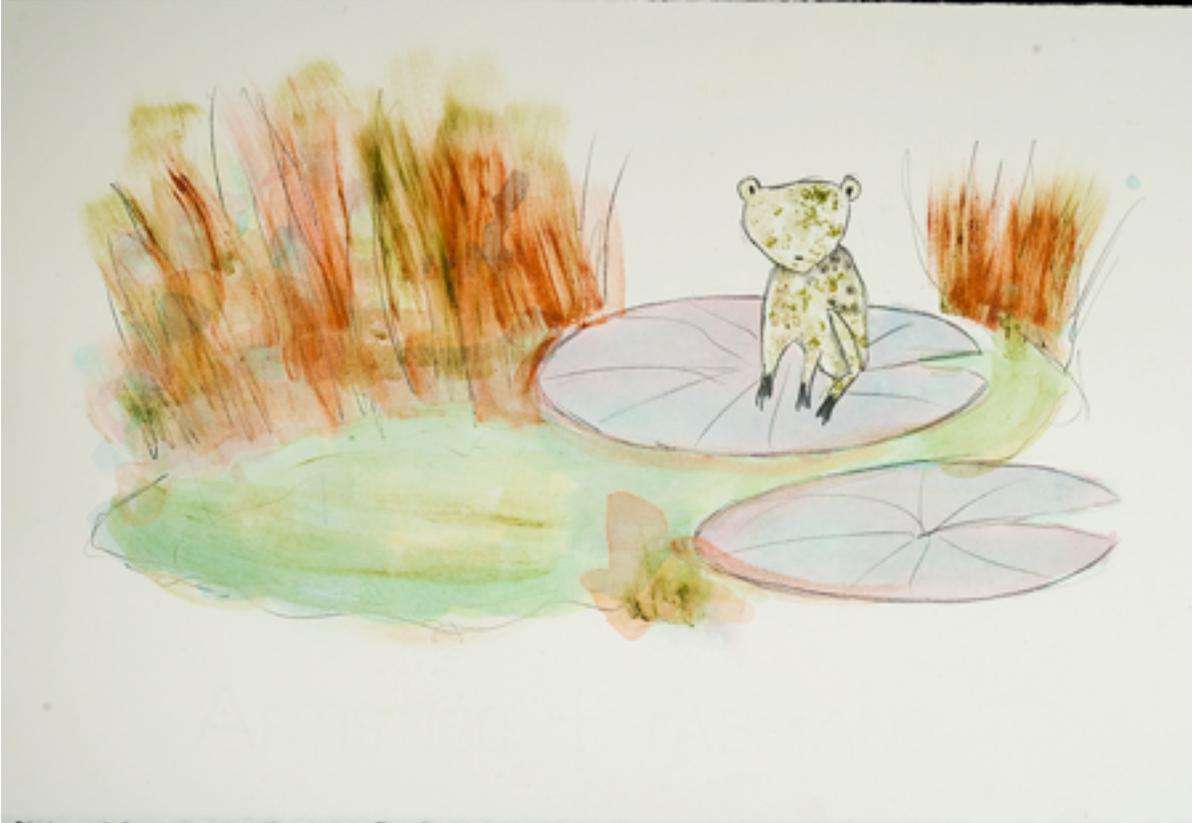
This second pastel technique involves painting in water first to the area you want to color and then adding the dry pastel “specks” with your brush. You will paint the shape with clear water, and you want enough water so that it’s a little “pond”, but not so much that it’s a very deep pond.

Then, scrape off some pastel onto your palette with the back of your paintbrush, and dip them in to the water, spreading around if necessary. Watch it carefully as it dries, as things might move a bit, and you can move them back if you’re watching.

You can also add a layer of this speckled pastel to a colored watercolor layer in the same way. Let dry completely.

Step 4

Pastel Technique #3



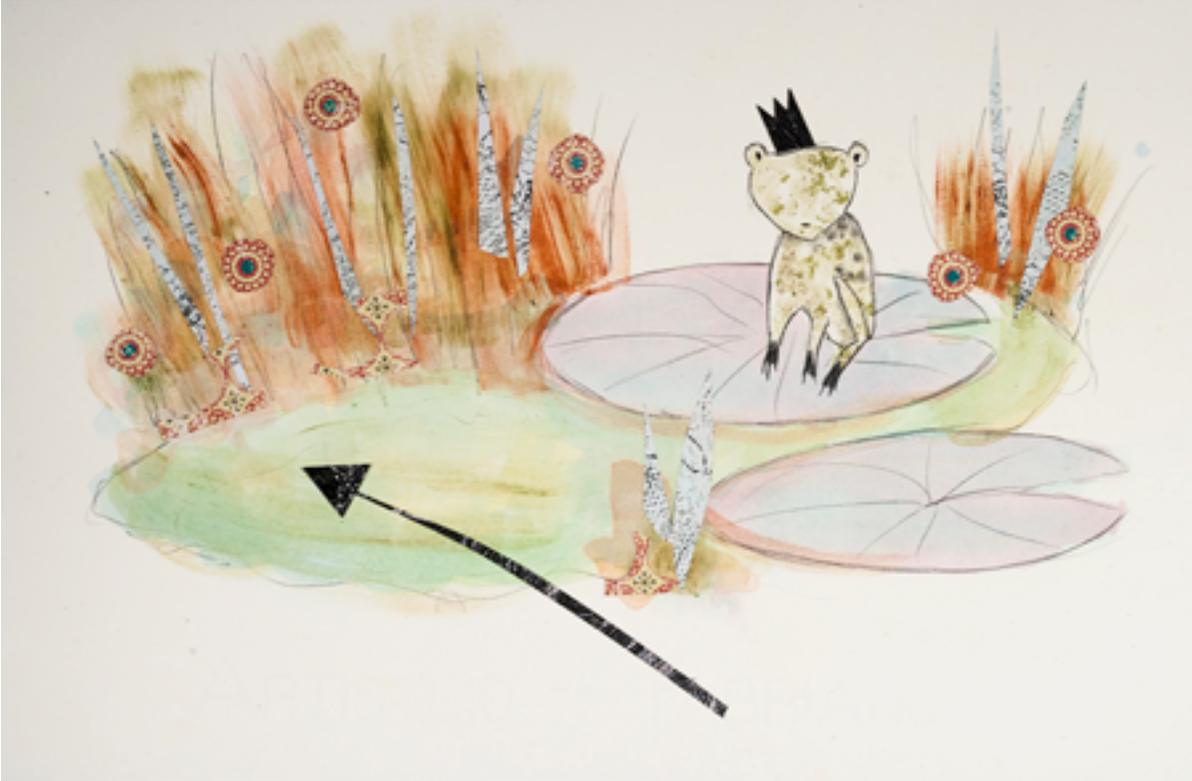
Added pastel with gel medium in the flower area.

Another way to use pastels I like to do when I'm needing some more abstract randomness is to add with a gel medium. I scrape the pastel as before, dip my brush in the gel medium, pick up some pigment, and paint. I like that little clumps of pastel make the strokes darker or lighter.

You can also go over the watercolor areas with the pastel+gel medium.

Spray with fixative before moving to the collage step.

Step 5
Collage



Collage!

Adding collage is an optional step but can be great for quickly adding texture and interest to these small pieces.

I just get my scissors, a glue stick, and bits of magazines scraps, painted paper, etc. I also make sure I have plenty of time to fuss around!

Have fun, and don't be afraid to start all over if something goes wrong! They are fairly quick to do. :D

Carla