

# Beyond the 7-Minute Collage

## *An exercise in drawing and collage*

The point of the 7-Minute Collage exercise is to practice working continuously, without hesitating, without stopping to agonize or second-guess your next move. It does not promise to result in 'good' art, or collages that you like. It does, however, promise to give you practice listening to your inner visual voice and staying present to what is unfolding on your paper.



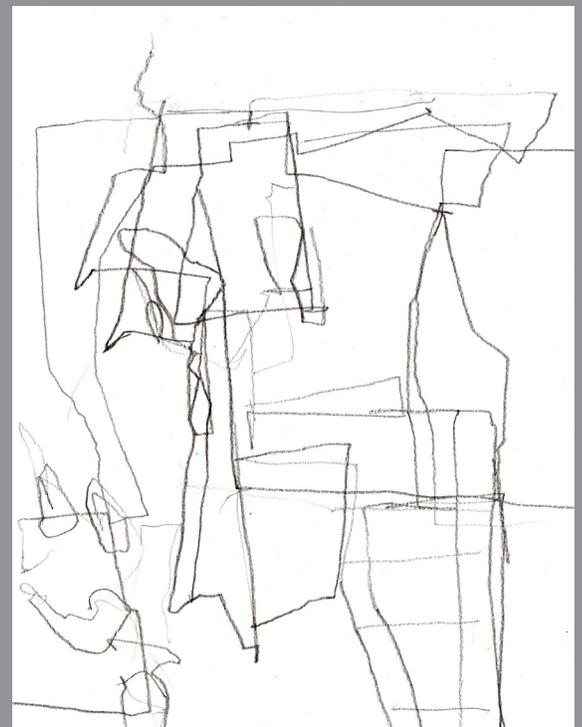
I used 9"x12" bristol for my substrate, but use whatever feels comfortable. Try 7-minute collages in your sketchbook too.

### **STEP 1:** *The 7-Minute Collage*

You will need 8 - 10 collage papers, including as much variety as you can find. Have your glue stick or matte medium at the ready, and whatever tools you usually use for collage (I use matte medium and a brush). Set the timer for 7 minutes, and collage continuously, though without rushing, until the timer goes off. Stop. That's it.

### **STEP 2:** *The 5-Minute Blind Drawing*

On another sheet of paper look at your collage and do a drawing of it, **BLIND**, that is, without looking at your drawing. Set your timer for five minutes and begin. You will find that five minutes is more than you need to simply outline the collage shapes, so you can go over the shapes more than once, re-draw parts of your drawing, try drawing some of the pattern (if any) within your collage papers. Try drawing more slowly as well. Don't stop before the five minutes are up.





### **STEP 3:** *Add Something*

Add to your drawing, with paint, collage, markers, whatever you like. It could remain fairly minimal, like mine, or you could add quite a lot more. It's up to you.

Let your piece remain open-ended, without 'resolving' everything. This is practice in letting go and expanding your vocabulary.