

>> *Husband and Wife*

>> **Activity: Create your own collage**

The subjects for Smith's artwork are often the people, places, and stories from his life. Create a collage of the people, places, or stories in your own life.

Supplies Needed

- Various collage materials such as newspapers, magazines, shopping bags, gift-wrapping paper, wallpaper scraps, foil, fabric, or colored paper
- Scissors • Glue
- A sheet of heavy paper or cardboard as a base

Optional

- Tempera paint • Crayon • Marker

Instructions

1. Cut out your shapes according to the image you want to create.
 - Be creative and explore your visions. For instance, if you want to make a woman wearing a pretty dress, find a floral gift-wrap or wall paper scrap from which to cut out the shape of the dress.
 - Consider where the image or idea you are creating takes place. Is it on the street? Can you find paper that looks like the texture of the street? Is it in a fancy room with pretty wallpaper?
2. Arrange your shapes on the cardboard or heavy paper base.
3. Glue your shapes down to the surface. Work in layers starting from the background to foreground.
4. You can add details with paint, crayon, or marker to make it a mixed-media collage.
5. Sign your artwork and hang it on your wall!



Husband and Wife by Melvin R. Smith (1994)

Husband and Wife is a mixed-media collage created by Melvin R. Smith, a native Oklahoman and nationally recognized African-American artist. It is one of two works by Smith that is featured in the Oklahoma State Art Collection at the Oklahoma State Capitol.

Collage is a form of art in which various materials are arranged and assembled into one composition. A collage may sometimes include newspaper clippings, ribbons, various colored or handmade papers, portions of other artwork or text, photographs, and other found objects. The materials are adhered to a single surface, such as paper or canvas, with glue or other adhesive. The term “collage” derives from the French word “coller” which means “glue.”

Smith makes art using a variety of materials. He is well known for his collage work and his large sculptures, as we explored in Lesson 4. For Smith's collages, he uses colored paper, just like a painter uses paint, to create images that are distinct of his vivid and expressive style.