

IDENTITY. COLLAGE.

CONCEPTS IN COLLAGE

How the Design Elements work.

2D Design- Art 203

Identity in Art

Identity can be defined as the way we perceive and express ourselves.

Often conditions that an individual is born with, ethnic heritage, race, gender or body type, play a role.

However, things can change one's identity and identity can change throughout a person's life.

Many artists use their work to express, explore and question ideas about identity.

Collage

Collage describes both the technique and resulting work of art in which pieces of paper, photographs, fabric or other materials are arranged and fastened to a supporting surface.

It was first used in the early 20th century. Collage can also include other media such as painting and drawing and even contain three-dimensional elements.

Some other terms: montage, photomontage, mixed media

COLLAGE IN ART

Even though some historians trace collage back farther in history, most agree it began in the early 20th century as artists began challenging the authority of Painting and Sculpture as the highest forms of art.

Collage was constructed of pieces of paper and magazines. It was inherently flat and made of ordinary materials.



Pablo Picasso,
Head, 1913

And



Hannah Hoch,
*Cut with a
Kitchen Knife
through the
Last Weimar
Beer-Belly
Cultural
Epoch in
Germany,*
1919

COLLAGE IN ART

The Surrealists sought to channel the unconscious as a means to unlock the power of the imagination.

Disdaining rationalism and literary realism, and powerfully influenced by psychoanalysis, the Surrealists believed the rational mind repressed the power of the imagination.

Collage provided another way to create 'automatic' drawings thought to allow access to the subconscious.



Max Ernst, *two collages used as magazine illustrations*, 1930s₅

COLLAGE IN ART

The term 'Pop art', occurred roughly between 1956 and 1966 in Great Britain and the US.

The origin of Pop in post-War Britain, while employing irony and parody, was more academic.

It focused on the dynamic and paradoxical imagery of American popular culture.

Hamilton's collage took images from advertising to create an ironic image of the American Dream.



Richard Hamilton, *Just what is it today that makes today's homes so different, so appealing*, 1956

IDENTITY IN ART

As we move into the 1980s and 90s, America becomes more conservative, art pushes back.

The ideas of Feminism, the Civil Rights Movement, Counter Culture wars, Gay Rights, along with the ideas of multiculturalism, colonialism, dualism, postmodernism and the historic reality that many individuals outside the 'mainstream' were marginalized or invisible in both art and society brought a new wave in art.



Barbara Kruger,
*Untitled:
I shop
therefore
I am,*
1987



And
*Untitled:
We have
received
orders
not to
move,*
1982

IDENTITY IN ART

In the 1980's until now, consumerism, identity (race, gender and sexuality), systems of power (including that of art history) are all being addressed.

Identity Politics - the political debates around certain shared characteristics such as race, class, and religion became a way for artists, politicians and the public began to address these issues (in very different ways)

Lyle Ashton Harris, *Miss America*, 1987



IDENTITY and COLLAGE

African American artist Romare Bearden found his voice by creating collages made of cut and torn photographs found in popular magazines that he then reassembled into visually powerful statements on African-American life.

The artist's subject matter encompassed the urban milieu of Harlem, traveling trains, migrants, spiritual "conjure" women, the rural South, jazz, and blues musicians, and African-American religion and spirituality.

Romare Bearden



IDENTITY and COLLAGE

Wangechi Mutu was born in Kenya and now lives in NYC. By combining found materials, magazine cutouts and painted imagery, her work addresses issues such as international politics, gender identity, war. Colonialism, global consumption, feminism and exoticization of the black female body.

She uses imagery from diverse sources such as; African traditions, fashion industry, pornography, and science fiction.

Wangichi Mutu



IDENTITY and COLLAGE

Collage is thought to be a good way to address issues of identity.

Why?

Because it's made of fragments, bits and pieces of images and elements taken from diverse sources and recombined, it allows representation of complex reality of identities.

An individual's identity consists of multiple, intersecting factors, including gender, race, ethnicity, class, and sexuality.

In fact, some prefer to use the plural word "identities," emphasizing that identity is fluid and shifts throughout one's life.

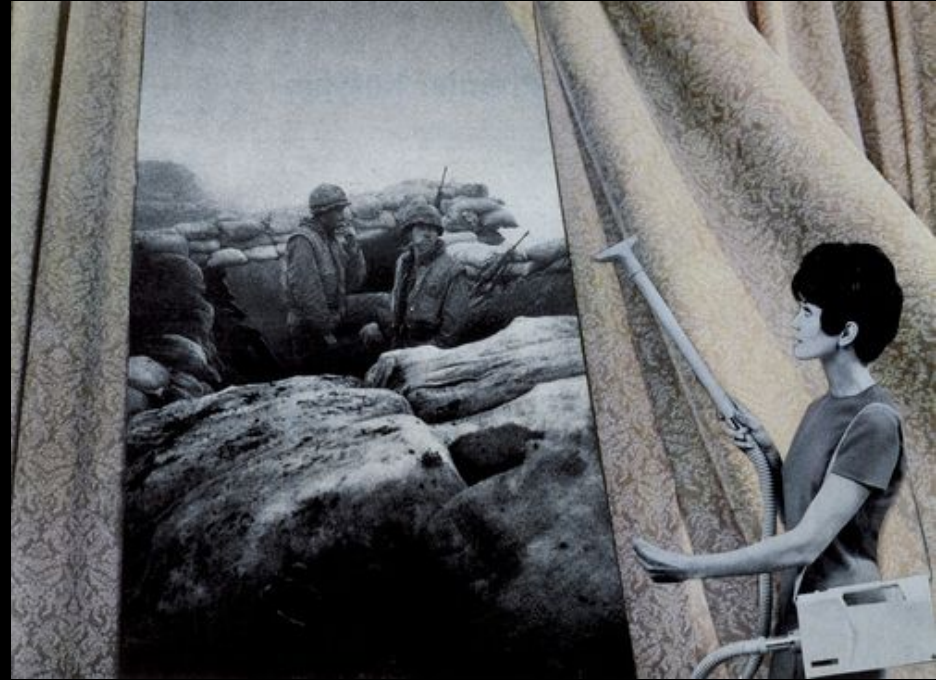
Wangichi Mutu



MORE EXAMPLES OF COLLAGE



Richard Hamilton



Martha Rosler

MORE EXAMPLES OF COLLAGE



Tatiana Kazakova



Tara Hardy

MORE EXAMPLES OF COLLAGE



Pierre Schmidt