PARRISH ART MUSEUM

Parrish Home Art Studios

POP ART COLLAGE

Create collages inspired by the art of Roy Lichtenstein from the permanent collection.


Materials:
Assorted papers
Scissors
Glue
Pencil
Wide, flat tipped paint brush
Paint
Wide marker (substitutes for paint)

Roy Lichtenstein (1923-1997) began making Pop Art paintings as a way to amuse his young sons. Pop Art draws on popular imagery such as comics, cartoons, advertisements, or product labels. He drew Mickey Mouse and Donald Duck and began to think about using other images that were part of American life. While
Lichtenstein’s paintings were the complete opposite of the abstract works being created by other artists of his time, he was fascinated by the bold brushstrokes those artists used in their expressive paintings.

Cartoon-like images of brushstrokes became prominent in Lichtenstein’s work, as well as the use of dots, which he borrowed from commercial printing. He often used black and white with a palette of red, yellow, blue, and green. Lichtenstein once explained that when working on a painting or sculpture, “I start with drawings or collages and usually I can see how it will work out in the painting. I often collage changes on the painting itself.” You can see these elements in the works from the Parrish collection pictured above.

Learn more about Roy Lichtenstein on Artist Stories:  
http://parrishart.org/artist-stories/#/artists/8682792

Explore more of his artwork through the Roy Lichtenstein Foundation image database:  
https://www.imageduplicator.com/

Now, use Roy Lichtenstein’s process to make a collage of your own. Print out the sheets of dots and the bold pre-printed brushstroke at the end of this lesson.

DAY 1

Choose your background paper. You can work on the horizontal or vertical, or make one of each! You can decide if you’d like to create a scene (like the image on the left) or make an abstract work (like the image on the right), which focuses on geometric and free-form shapes as opposed to recognizable images. Lichtenstein created works
depicting indoor and outdoor scenes. Again, you can make both if you’d like. Cut out your papers and arrange them on your background. When you are pleased with your composition, or the placement and arrangement, begin to glue the pieces down.

DAY 2

Today, you’ll paint your own brushstrokes. Using your wide brush dipped in a paint, or wide point marker, hold the brush or marker flat against a blank paper. With a sweeping motion, make a stroke in any direction. Make as many as you’d like, and remember that the marks don’t have to be solid, the streaks and paper showing are part of Lichtenstein’s images too. When the brushstrokes are dry, cut them out and create another collage.

You’re the artist: anything goes, abstract or representational, or both! Don’t limit yourself, experiment and have fun!

TAKE IT FURTHER

Lichtenstein used collage as a first step when making paintings or sculptures. Can one of your collages become the basis of a painting or sculpture?

We would love to see what you made! To share, post your artwork on Instagram with the hashtag #ParrishHomeArtStudios