

# Reframed: Collages inspired by Tiko Kerr

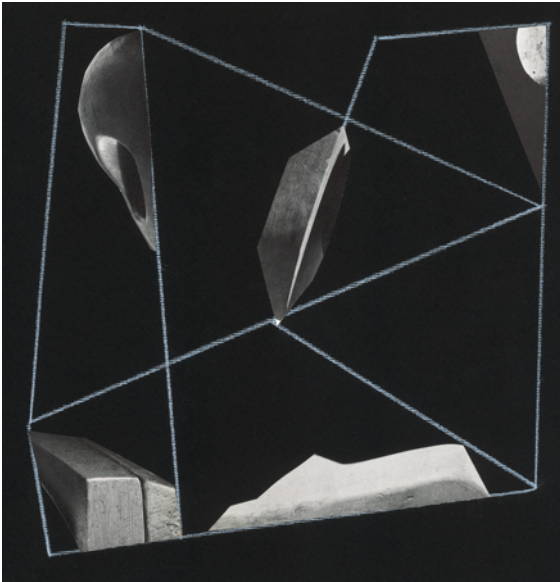
CREATED WITH CONTRIBUTIONS BY: Amelia Epp

TOPICS: Paper collage technique; Creating abstract imagery

SUBJECT(S): Visual Arts      GRADE(S): 8-12

UNIT DURATION: 3 lessons

**OVERVIEW & CULMINATING TASK:** In this lesson students will explore the collage works of renowned Vancouver artist Tiko Kerr. Students will create an abstract collage using paper and oil pastels inspired by Kerr's creative process.



Tiko Kerr, *String Theory #2*, 2018, paper collage, 11.75 x 11.25 inches. Image courtesy of the artist.

trauma. Often beginning as paper collages cut from modernist artists' monographs and interspersed with personal ephemera, Kerr's recent body of work relies on a mix of cubist, surrealist, and pop art sensibilities in their disorienting automatic, and irreverent mashups of high and low culture. His

The artworks featured in this lesson are selected from Kerr's 2019 solo exhibition at the Gordon Smith Art Gallery entitled *Reframed: Painting and Collage* by Tiko Kerr.

The following is adapted from the didactic text written for the exhibition by curator Meredith Preuss:

*Reframed* features new work by Tiko Kerr that draws on images from art history and popular culture to explore the contemporary moment of widespread unrest and

mixed media approach is process-based and conceptually driven.

## **BIG IDEAS (What students will understand):**

- An artist's intention transforms materials into art. (Art Studio 10)
- Artistic works offer unique aesthetic experiences in a variety of contexts. (Art Studio 11)

## **CURRICULAR COMPETENCIES (What students will do):**

- Explore artistic possibilities using a range of materials, processes, and technologies
- Describe and analyze, using discipline-specific language, how artists use materials,

## **CONCEPTS & CONTENT (What students will know):**

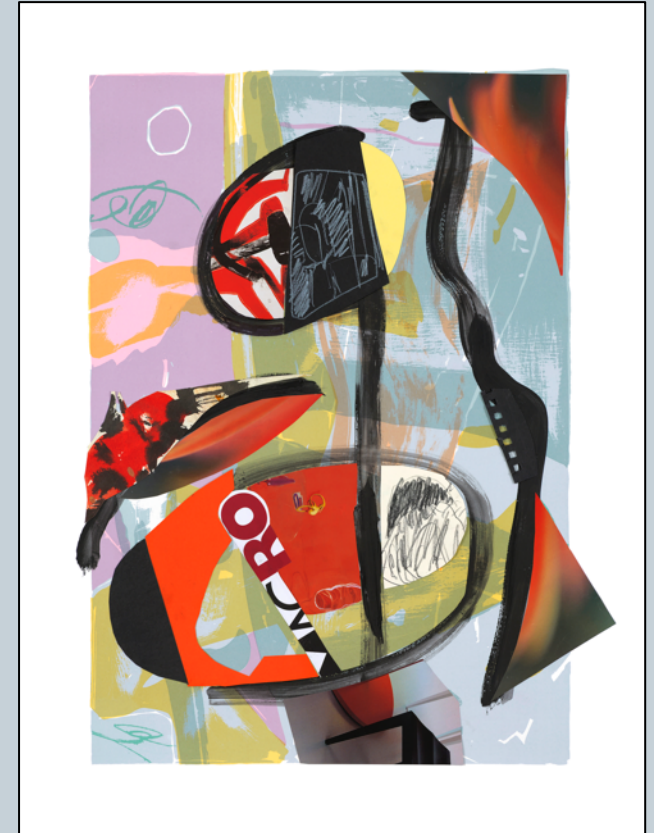
- Image development strategies
- Elements of visual art; principles of design

## **ESSENTIAL QUESTION(S) (What students will keep considering):**

- How can I create a variety of shapes, lines, and patterns using paper collage and pastel?
- How can I cut up and recombine an existing artwork to create something new?

## **FIRST PEOPLES' PRINCIPLES OF LEARNING:**

Learning is holistic, reflexive, reflective, experiential and relational.



Tiko Kerr, *A Year of Kindness/January*, 2019, acrylic and paper collage on lithograph, 30 x 22 inches. Image courtesy of the artist.

## MATERIALS & TECHNOLOGIES:

- digital Images of collages by Tiko Kerr (see end of document)
- digital projector/computer
- 8.5" x 5.5" pre-cut white printer paper (1 per student)
- 8" x 8" pre-cut thick white paper (i.e. construction paper or cardstock) (1 per student)
- 3" x 3" pre-cut squares of colourful, patterned, and recycled paper (i.e. images from calendars, pre-painted paper, old student artwork, printed text documents, etc.)
- 3" x 3" pre-cut squares of construction paper in a variety of colours
- pages torn from magazines
- scissors
- glue sticks
- pencils
- rulers
- oil pastels sorted by colour

## VOCABULARY:

collage, abstraction, recombine, colour palette, pattern, ephemera, lithograph prints

## RESOURCES & REFERENCES:

- <https://www.saatchiart.com/tikokerr>
- <http://www.tikokerr.com>
- <http://www.tate.org.uk/learn/online-resources/glossary/>

## ADAPTATIONS & MODIFICATIONS:

Students with difficulties using scissors may need to have their collage paper pre-cut into smaller pieces. Students with hand function difficulties may need to use thick pastels.

## DISCUSSION & ACTIVITIES (Teacher Action/Student Action):

LESSON #1 (intro to Tiko Kerr and collage creation):

- Introduce students to the artwork of Tiko Kerr. Begin by viewing the works entitled *A Year of Kindness/January* and *A Year of Kindness/June* (see end of document for large images of artwork) and pose questions for discussion:
  - What similarities do you notice between these two artworks? What differences?
  - Describe the colours that Kerr has included in these collages.
  - How would you describe the marks that the artist has made in these artworks?
  - What types of images has the artist cut up and included in these artworks?

-Have you ever created an artwork that you didn't like? Have you ever added to or changed an artwork that you created in the past?

- Share with students that these artworks are examples of collages. Ask students to define the term collage.
- A definition of the term collage is as follows: "Collage describes both the technique and the resulting work of art in which pieces of paper, photographs, fabric and other ephemera are arranged and stuck down onto a supporting surface."

- Share with students that the 2 artworks are part of a collection of 19 collages that Tiko Kerr created by reworking a series of lithograph prints that he had previously created and that he wasn't happy with. The lithograph prints consist of the pastel colours and shapes that can be seen in the background of the collages.



Tiko Kerr, *Pattern Recognition*, 2018, acrylic collage and inkjet on canvas, 36 x 36 inches. Image courtesy of the artist.

As can be seen in these collages, Tiko Kerr makes use of collected ephemera including illustrations from art books, encyclopedias, and comic books; pages from novels; and letters.

- View the works entitled *String Theory #2* and *Pattern Recognition* (see end of document for large images of artwork) and pose questions for discussion:

-How would you describe the colours used in these artworks, in comparison to the last artworks we looked at?  
-How would you describe the types of marks and shapes that Tiko Kerr has included in these collages? (discuss the contrast between the curving, fluid marks and shapes and straight, geometric marks and shapes.)

- Share with students that *Pattern Recognition* is an example of a canvas collage in which Kerr made use of swatches of inkjet printed canvas to create a final composition.
- Share with students that Tiko Kerr talks about the process of creating collages as "drawing with scissors". Ask students: What do you think Tiko Kerr means by "drawing with scissors"?
- Tell students that they will create collages inspired by Tiko Kerr's processes and materials.
- Have students choose the following from the collection of collage papers: 1 piece of colourful construction paper, 2 magazine pages, 2 pieces of cut up patterned/recycled paper. (see image of collage materials sorted into trays)
- Hand out the sheets of 8.5" x 5.5" pre-cut white printer paper (1 per student).



Teacher Sample, AFK

and small shapes.

- Share with students that later on they will transform their collages by cutting them up and creating something new with them.

#### LESSON #2 (collage creation continued):

- Review artworks by Tiko Kerr and the concepts of collage and "drawing with scissors".
- Explain to student that they will cut up their collages from Lesson #1 into 3-4 interesting

- Tell students that they will use their selected papers to create a collage that covers the entire sheet of 8.5" x 5.5" paper. Demonstrate ways to cut and tear the collage paper to create a variety of shapes and edges (i.e. jagged, curving, soft, straight, etc.). Demonstrate techniques for gluing down the paper so that it does not curl up. Encourage students to overlap their paper and to use a variety of large



Collage materials sorted into trays

shapes. Demonstrate how to cut up a collage and to create a variety of cut lines and shapes.

- Explain to students that they will arrange their 3-4 cut pieces on a 8" x 8" white piece of paper. They will need to overlap their shapes in order to fit them on the paper. They will also likely leave white spaces between the shapes. Emphasize the need to use sufficient glue to prevent the paper from peeling off the collage surface.
- Encourage students to experiment with multiple arrangements before they glue down their final collage composition.
- Explain to students that they will complete their collages by adding details and marks using oil pastels. Ask students to identify 2 colours in their collages that stand out to them and that they would like to further emphasize in their compositions. Students will make use of only these 2 pastel colours.
- Demonstrate to students how they can fill some of the white spaces in their collages using a thick application of oil pastel colour. Demonstrate how students can make a variety of marks and patterns on both the white spaces and on top of their collaged paper (see AFK teacher sample for examples of pastel marks and patterns).

**FORMATIVE ASSESSMENT:**

After creating their collages in Lesson #1, have students lay them out on their desks and walk around the classroom to observe their peer's work. Facilitate a class discussion using the following prompts:

- Identify examples of layering in your classmates' collages.
- What types of shapes and lines have your classmates included in their collages?

**SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENT:**

After students complete their collages in Lesson #3, have them reflect on the following questions:

- How did it feel to cut up your collage from Lesson #1?
- What were the similarities and differences between your original collage and your final collage? Which did you prefer and why?
- What types of shapes and lines have you included in your collage?

**EXTENSIONS & POSSIBLE CROSS-CURRICULAR CONNECTIONS:**

Have students brainstorm titles for their finished collages. Use the following prompt to help students to brainstorm words to incorporate into their titles:

- What colours, shapes, and images stand out the most within your collage?

As an extension to this activity, students could use their collages as visual references in the creation of an abstract painting.

**AFK RESOURCES FOR TEACHERS:**

Looking for more art lesson ideas? Looking for ways to connect art to other areas of the curriculum? Visit the AFK Resources page to find lesson plans for all grade levels!

<http://tiny.cc/AFKResources>



Artwork by Grade 3 Student from Ridgeway Elementary, AFK Gallery Program



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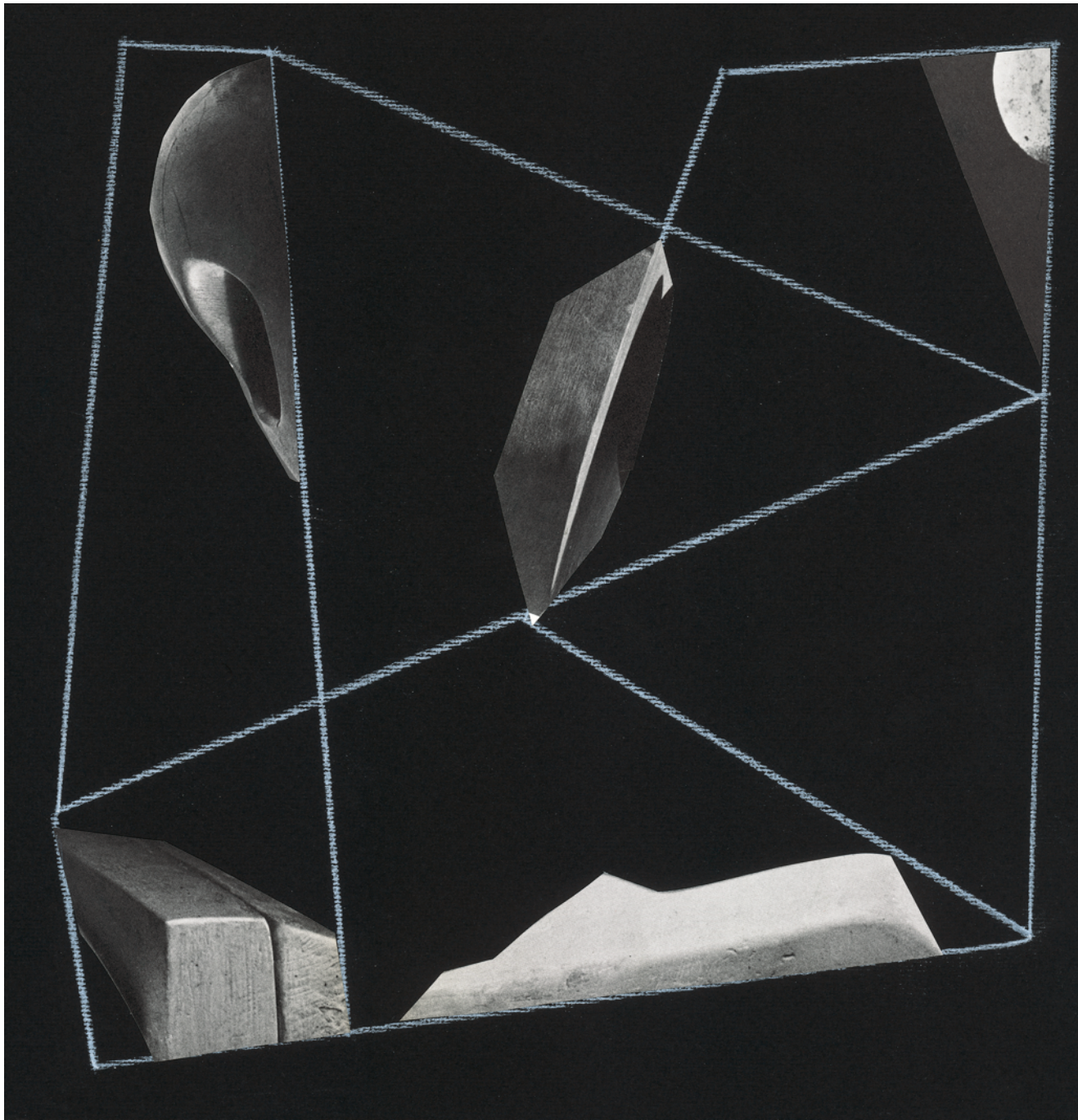
Artwork by Grade 3 Student from Ridgeway Elementary, AFK Gallery Program



Tiko Kerr, *A Year of Kindness/January*, 2019, acrylic and paper collage on lithograph, 30 x 22 inches. Image courtesy of the artist.



Tiko Kerr, *A Year of Kindness/June*, 2019, acrylic and paper collage on lithograph, 30 x 22 inches. Image courtesy of the artist.



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