

Torn Metal Collage

Emboss and “antique” colorful paper foil pictures inspired by the ornate paintings of Gustav Klimt

The “Golden Phase” of Austrian artist Gustav Klimt (1862-1918) refers to a number of elegant paintings he created between 1898 and 1909 that included extensive use of gold leaf. He received both critical acclaim and financial success for these highly decorative paintings that were precursors to the Art Nouveau movement.

Many of Klimt’s paintings were realistic portraits of society women surrounded by a composition of mosaic-like patterns that indicated clothing, costuming, or jewelry. It is speculated that Klimt was inspired by Byzantine art, tapestries, and mosaics he may have seen while visiting Venice and Ravenna.

This project allows students the opportunity to compose their own opulent art, not simply limited to gold but incorporating a rainbow of reflective, metallic colors. Paper-backed foil can be gently embossed with designs, crumpled to create texture, and easily torn for collage. A coat of tempera paint is used to fill the texture, define the torn edges, and give the artwork a rich, “antiqued” look.

GRADES 3-12 Note: Instructions and materials are based upon a class size of 24 students. Adjust as needed.

Preparation

1. For easy distribution and application of glue, make glue sponges. Cut a sponge to fit in a sandwich-size plastic container or deli-meat container with a tight-fitting lid. Pour in enough glue to cover the bottom of the container. Dampen the sponge and squeeze out excess water. Set it in the container, then turn it over, glue side up. Students can tap their paper on the sponge lightly to apply a thin, even layer of glue. Keep the lid on tightly when not in use.
2. Using scissors or a paper trimmer, cut foil sheets to an 8-1/2" x 10" size for easier distribution among the class.

Process

1. For best results, plan the collage first with pencil on newsprint.
2. Begin with the background and the largest pieces of foil first. Tear the edges so they are uneven, apply glue to the back side, and press them onto tag board or heavy paper. Take care to apply glue to the very edges of the torn shape. Press and smooth with fingers to make the foil adhere as firmly as possible and prevent the edges from curling.



Materials (required)

Hygloss[™] Metallic Foil Paper, assorted colors, 20" x 26", package of 24 sheets (11205-1001); share one package across class

Pacon[®] Storybook 2-Ply Tag Board, White, package of 100 9" x 12" sheets (13111-1003); need one sheet per student

Blick[®] White Glue, 4 oz (23882-1004); share one among three students

Blick[®] Essentials Tempera, Pint, Black (00057-2006); share across class

Scratch-Art[®] Sticks, package of 100 (14907-1045); need one per student

Foam Brush, 1" (05114-1001); need one per student

Paper towels

Optional Materials

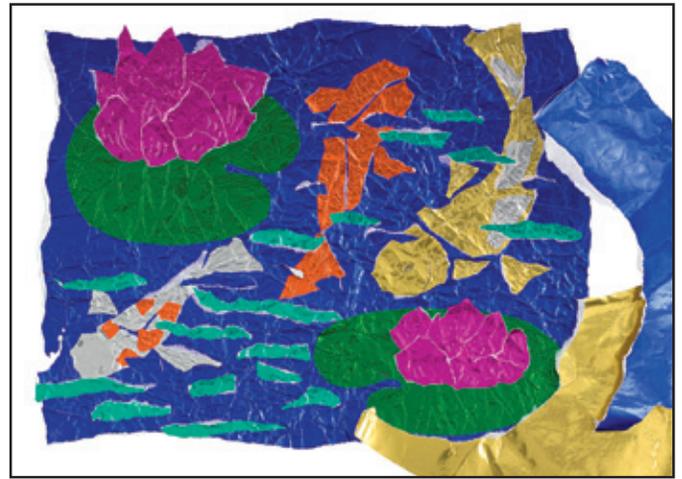
3M[®] Commercial Cellulose Sponge, 6" x 4.2" x 1.6" (38014-1006)

Sandwich-size Plastic Container with lid

Blick[®] All-Purpose Newsprint, 8-1/2" x 11", 500-sheet ream (10204-1085)

Blick[®] Essentials Tempera, assorted colors (00057-)





Step 1: Create a collage by gluing pieces of torn foil paper to tag board, then embossing the design with a wooden scratch stick.

Process, continued

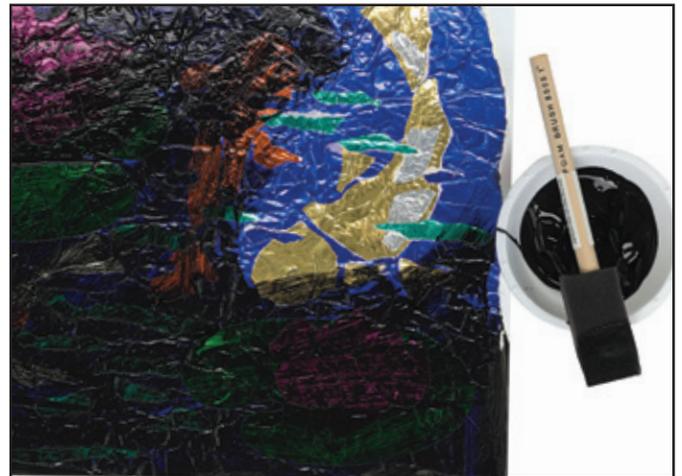
3. Emboss lines, textures, details, and designs into the foil shapes using a wooden scratch stick. The point on the stick will be sharp at first and may tear the foil paper. To avoid this, rub the point against a piece of sandpaper (backed by a hard surface) to dull it.
4. With a flat, wide brush, cover the entire surface, including any revealed tag board, with a coat of black tempera paint. Allow the paint to dry until it is completely matte.
5. Crumple a paper towel and dip a portion lightly in water. Stroke the damp towel gently over the tempera paint, lifting it away from the foil surface. When the towel fills with paint, tuck that portion inside and repeat the process with another section of the paper towel. The paint will remain in the embossed lines, along the torn paper edges, and on the tag board surface, leaving the metallic colors to glow through.

Suggestions:

- Don't scrub the towel too vigorously on the foil surface, as the foil may tear or too much color may be lifted.
- Work on small sections of the design at a time to keep the piece evenly covered with paint.
- Leave some of the paint sitting on the foil to make more texture.
- If too much paint is removed from the embossed lines, repaint that area, allow it to dry, and wipe lightly again.

Options

- Other opaque colors of tempera may be used for different effects. Try white or contrasting metallic colors.



Step 2: Cover the design with black tempera paint and allow it to dry.



Step 3: Gently lift the paint away from the foil with a damp paper towel. The paint will remain in the embossing and on the torn paper edges.

National Standards for Visual Arts Education

Content Standard #1 — Understanding and applying media, techniques, and processes.

K-4 • Students use different media, techniques, and processes to communicate ideas, experiences, and stories.

5-8 • Students intentionally take advantage of the qualities and characteristics of art media, techniques, and processes to enhance communication of their experiences and ideas.

9-12 Students apply media, techniques, and processes with sufficient skill, confidence, and sensitivity that their intentions are carried out in their artworks.

Content Standard #3 — Choosing and evaluating a range of subject matter, symbols, and ideas.

K-4 • Students explore and understand prospective content for works of art.

5-8 • Students use subjects, themes, and symbols that demonstrate knowledge of contexts, values, and aesthetics that communicate intended meaning in artworks.

9-12 • Students evaluate and defend the validity of sources for content and the manner in which subject matter, symbols, and images are used in the students' works and in significant works by others.

