

Glues for Collage Art

Gluing Paper - paper is a dry material and when it gets wet it will expand like a sponge and absorb the moisture as fast as it can. When layers of glue are applied some areas are not even so the absorption is different. This reaction is what creates the curling and wrinkles. Coating papers will allow for the expanding and contrasting so when you are finally ready to glue your papers down all that can be done and you will have more control over the papers. By coating papers you protect found papers that might have higher acids than others from seeping in and causing deterioration. The thin layer of acrylic mediums is a bearer and allows you to get the end result of flatter collages. Though some people don't coat the papers and use a brayer or plastic card to spread over the surface to flatten and push out the extra glues. Being aware of what the glues do you then can make choices that best fits your needs.



Rubber Cement is great for paste up and poster work or for school projects that don't need to last a long time. Not good for Collage because it dries up and turns brown and items fall off. Not recommended for fine art



ModPodge has been around for a long time and mainly use for craft project, depending on where you are around the world this glue may be all there is available for both craft and art. After a few years it will yellow and possible crack. Though this cracked effect when used in crafts that look may be appealing. Not recommended for fine art.



Elmer's Glue is for elementary school crafts and art not for fine art. After it dries, if it gets wet by water or other wet mediums it will go back its liquid state. Not recommended for fine art though in some countries around the world this is all that is use.



Uhu Glue Stick is great for art journaling and smaller crafter but not recommended for fine art.



Tacky Glue stays pliable and does not go back to a liquid state like Elmer's glue. Can be used to mount artwork but not recommended fine art.



Yes Glue is great glue if you want your papers to lie flat. Papers don't curl or wrinkle, can be used in art journaling, card making and other crafts. After a few years it may turn brown and dry up some fine artist won't use it because it's not archival they say and other artists love it. The glue consistence is like a glue stick without the stick applicator, one may need a palette knife get it out of the jar and spread it on your surface.



Yes Glue and Golden Satin Glazing medium mixed together will make glue for collage. It allows one the ability to have your papers lie flat and make adjustments without drying too quickly. But the chance of turning brown can still happen keep the glue off the surface if this is a concern.



Mat Medium has a mat finish and is used to mix with acrylic paints to extend drying time and it is an artist material that can be used for collage glue. It is thinner then gel mediums and papers have a tendency to curl but will relax when dry. Recommended not to water down or it loses its adherent properties for collage. It also can be used to tone down a glossy surface in preparation for drawing materials. Especially if you want to bring in mixed mediums such as pastels, watercolor pencil, charcoal pencils etc. Better choice for fine art but will have a mat finish.



Soft Gel Medium, are thicker acrylic medium used to mix with acrylics to extend drying time. They can be used to create textures and can be used for collage glue. It is an artist material and a better choice for fine art. They can be thinned down with water if need be but up to equal parts. The final finishes of the gel mediums have a tendency to be glossy.



Molding pastes, thin, thick, heavy and fibrous are mainly used to mix with the acrylic paints to gain new textural effect in your acrylic paintings. They can be use as glue but not recommended because they are too thick and take a long time to dry.



Lineco Neutral PH Adhesive used for book arts, framing and collaging. It is an artist material and is a better choice for fine art. Lineco is recommended to be use if you are gluing natural elements like leaves, flowers etc. The natural materials are already in their state of decomposing so any glue used at this point are best to be neutral ph.



Lineco also makes PVA glue for book binding arts, and other papers arts which is an acid free project if one is interested in sticking to through out there art making process.



Polymer Medium (Gloss) is an acrylic medium used to extend the drying time of acrylic paints with a high gloss finish. This high gloss is what makes for a great dry adhesive with the method of using a tack iron to fuse collage papers together. Not a final coat for art but a very protective coat. In my experience Golden works the best for tacking collage papers down with the method used with tack iron.



Varnishes if working with acrylics stick with an acrylic varnish they are compatible. The varnishes are the last final layer to apply to acrylic paintings and collage work. Never use a varnish as your glue. Some Varnishes have a UV protected which is nice to have on your art work. The finishes can be in mat, satin and gloss. I personally prefer the satin

This is a list of glues in general that I've put together for reference from my personal experience. Most of the other brand names of acrylic mediums out there are about the same just a different label from other company's brands. Knowing what you are looking to use the glues for is a plus. If you're working mainly in the fine art side of things I would recommend acrylic mediums for your glue. They're an artist material so we know that it will be around for long time and not yellow or dry up. If you are not concerned with the end project and are in it for fun then explore the other glues and find one that works best for you.

If wanting to create images transfers acrylic mediums are your best bet... but Liquitex and Blick brands don't work well, stick with your Golden Brand acrylics for the image transfers.

Compiled list

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