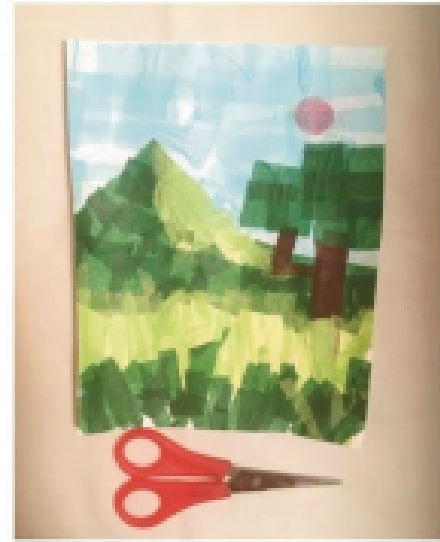


## Landscape Collage Inspired by Carly A. Brock

A HANDS-ON ART ACTIVITY  
DESIGNED BY MONA EDUCATORS



MoNA Educator example

### Description

Students will create a collage based on observations of natural landscape imagery. This process will teach learners how to portray realistic environments by progressing from background, to mid-ground, to foreground. Students will learn about the works of PNW artist Carly A. Brock, using the artist's paintings as reference for their own unique art pieces.

### Materials

- Glue
- Tissue paper (assorted colors)
- Scissors
- Landscape image
- Paintbrushes
- Water



### Vocabulary

- ✓ Collage
- ✓ Color mixing
- ✓ Background
- ✓ Mid-ground
- ✓ Foreground
- ✓ Depth



**Carly A. Brock** was born and raised in the Pacific Northwest, and is known for her detailed landscape paintings in oil and watercolor. Influenced by her surroundings in the PNW, Los Angeles and Lake Tahoe, Brock "understands how a sense of place can be inspirational" (Brock's website). Her paintings show poplar trees and fields of the Skagit Valley, cool blue mountainscapes and evening skies.



To learn more about the artist and explore further images, head to [Brock's website](#). Full-size images and a VTS (Visual Thinking Strategies) appendix are included at the end of the lesson to help facilitate a class discussion.

(Left) *Painting for Private Commission* by Carly A. Brock  
Image credit: CarlyBrock.com

Brock often uses roads, waterways, fenceposts or trees to give her artworks depth and perspective. Can you find the foreground, mid-ground and background of each image?



(Above) *Painting for Private Commission* by Carly A. Brock  
Image credit: CarlyBrock.com

## Instructions

**1)** Begin by introducing the artist and discussing landscape images. Here, it may be helpful to use the included images and VTS (Visual Thinking Strategies) appendix.

**2)** After class discussion, introduce students to the art-making activity and medium they will be working with. Discuss color theory (how to mix colors), glueing technique and the idea of collage.

- Option A: Have pre-cut small pieces of tissues paper
- Option B: Have students tear/cut their own pieces

**3)** For adhesive mixture: combine  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup of water with 1 tablespoon of glue to create collage paste. Use paintbrushes for application.

**4)** Have students lay out and carefully adhere the lightest colors of tissue paper first, and end with the darkest colors. Have students start with the background (sky), then mid-ground (hills or far away objects), and then foreground (grass/trees/details closest to the viewer).

**5)** Have students continue to build up layers of tissue paper until their landscape design is to their liking.

- Note: If able, allow some dry time between layers to avoid pulling up previous layers.

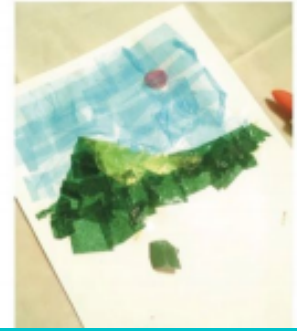




Assemble supplies



Create background (sky)



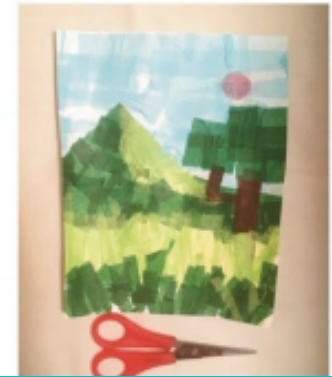
Create mid-ground (mountains, trees)



Create foreground (grass, animals)



Let project dry & admire work!



Cut edges once completely dry for a cleaner look

## Modifications

- You could make this project mixed-media by using magazine clippings to add more images to the piece.
- Once dry, students could also draw in details with markers, or overlay cut-out drawings to the piece. This could also be done to layer words. Students could write a poem, or include a poem, about their landscape/art subject to layer onto the piece to incorporate literature.





## Learning and State Standards

Fulfills **Washington State Arts Learning Standards:**

- **Kindergarten:** (VA:Cr2.1.K) Through experimentation, build skills in various media and approaches to art-making.
- **First Grade:** (VA:Cr2.1.1) Explore uses of materials and tools to create works of art or design.
- **Second Grade:** (VA:Re7.1.2) Perceive and describe aesthetic characteristics of one's natural world and constructed environments.
- **Third Grade:** (VA:Cr2.1.3) Create personally satisfying artwork, using a variety of artistic processes and materials.
- **Fourth Grade:** (VA:Cr2.3.4) Document, describe, and represent regional constructed environments.
- **Fifth Grade:** (VA:Cr2.1.5) Experiment and develop skills in multiple art-making techniques and approaches through practice.
- **Sixth Grade:** (VA:Cr2.1.6) Demonstrate openness in trying new ideas, materials, methods, and approaches in making works of art and design.
- **Seventh Grade:** (VA:Cr2.1.7) . Demonstrate persistence in developing skills with various materials, methods, and approaches in creating works of art or design.
- **Eighth Grade:** (VA:Cr3.1.8) Apply relevant criteria to examine, reflect on, and plan revisions for a work of art or design in progress.

# Visual Thinking Strategies

MoNA's Education programs utilize Visual Thinking Strategies (VTS), which is a research-based teaching method that promotes aesthetic development including critical thinking and communication skills. Here in the MoNA, we use VTS to engage students and general visitors with art encouraging them to observe closely, think critically and discuss respectfully; however, VTS can be effectively used across curricula. This approach teaches its participants how to take the time to observe closely, describe what they see in detail and provide evidence for their observations. Students learn that their reflections and thoughts are valued and appreciated in this inclusive teaching method.

In order to facilitate a VTS discussion, you first encourage viewers to take a quiet moment to observe the work you are going to explore. Then you ask the following questions and paraphrase the responses without adding any of your own judgements. You can insert additional vocabulary and point to specific parts of the artwork.

*What's going on in this picture?*  
*What do you see that makes you say that...?*  
*What more can you find?*

## Visual Thinking Strategy Links

If you are interested in learning more about VTS, [here is their website](#). If you already know and love VTS, but want help finding great images to VTS in your classroom, here is a [fantastic gallery](#). You can also visit this website for additional resources: <https://www.monamuseum.org/resources-for-educators>



*Painting for Private Commission by Carly A. Brock*  
Image credit: [CarlyBrock.com](http://CarlyBrock.com)



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*Painting for Private Commission* by Carly A. Brock  
Image credit: [CarlyBrock.com](http://CarlyBrock.com)



*Skagit Farmland* by Carly A. Brock  
Image credit: [CarlyBrock.com](http://CarlyBrock.com)