

MoNA

Museum of Northwest Art

Age: Fifth Grade

Lesson Duration: 2 Hours

Subjects: Colonial History, Typography, Art, Social Studies & Graphic Design

Lettering and Collage Inspired by Cora Pearl

A HANDS-ON ART ACTIVITY
DESIGNED BY MONA
EDUCATORS



Student example

Image Source: Museum of Northwest Art

Description

Students will create a layered collage that incorporates hand-lettering, as well as the study of typography and printed matter.

Inspired by the work of Cora Pearl, they will combine text and images in three layers.

Relevant Vocabulary

- Typography
- Lettering
- Typeface
- Translucent
- Transparent
- Opaque
- Collage

Materials

- White poster board cut to 6 x 12"
- Tissue paper
- Acetate or mylar (or other type of clear plastic sheet- cut to 6 x 6")
- Colored pencils
- Black permanent markers
- Glue sticks
- 3D dots
- Scissors
- Printed or photocopied examples of hand-lettering and alphabets (i.e. old newspapers) for collage
- Scratch paper/newsprint

Inspiration

Share the work of Cora Pearl (included at the end of this lesson) to get the students excited about this project!

Instructions

- 1)** Fold white poster board in half so the card opens at the bottom. This will allow the final piece to stand up on its own.
- 2)** Have students cut out images of hand-lettered and other printed matter and make a simple collage in black and white on the poster board.
- 3)** On scratch paper (newsprint) sketch out designs using colored pencils for a shop sign incorporating both the name and an image that describes the business (e.g. cobbler- shoe.) Many people were illiterate in the colonial era so they needed to have pictures on their signs as well! From the selection of larger typefaces, students will select one they like and cut out the first letter of the name of their business.
- 4)** When they are ready to draw their sign on the tissue paper, leave space in one corner of the design for the addition of this large letter. Also, don't forget to leave room around the edges for a black frame! (They can lay the frame on top to see how it will fit.)

5) Using colored pencils, draw on the tissue paper, and trace lettering for the sign using the sample typefaces. Students can move the large letter around under the tissue paper to get the right balance.

6) When the colored pencil design on the tissue paper layer is finished, place the large letter where it needs to go, and carefully place the transparent plastic sheet on top. Then trace the lettering using a Sharpie marker on the plastic layer.

7) Line up all three layers and lay the black frame on top. If students are dissatisfied with the composition, now is the time to adjust placement of layers and trim edges if necessary.

8) Glue the tissue layer at the corners to the background collage. Glue black frame on top of the plastic sheet. Place 3D dots at the corners in between these two layers. The card should stand up on its own (like a paper "sandwich board" advertisement.)

Time Permitting: Students could simulate other printed matter that might go along with their businesses, such as writing out an imaginary sales receipt or a menu for the pub, using appropriate lettering and imagery.

Learning and State Standards

Fulfills **Washington State Arts Learning Standards:**

- **VA:Cr2.1.5** (Experiment and develop skills in multiple art-making techniques and approaches through practice)
- **VA:Cr2.2.5** (Demonstrate quality craftsmanship through care for and use of materials, tools, and equipment.)
- **VA:Re9.1.5** (Recognize differences in criteria used to evaluate works of art depending on styles, genres, and media as well as historical and cultural contexts.)

Meet the Artist:

Cora Pearl



Image Source: <http://www.corapearlligraphy.com/>

Cora Pearl is a lettering artist and teacher in Oregon. She has been interested in calligraphy since she was young and is experienced in both traditional and modern styles. Pearl offers commissions and custom artwork, and has created poetry, anniversary gifts, wedding vows, as well as more commercial items like logos, flyers, chalkboard lettering, and large murals. Pearl feels that her art is an expression of her desire to make things beautiful, whether it is a certificate to celebrate a retirement or a poetic piece for a personal collection.

Her classes cover different types of lettering and calligraphy and are offered online via Zoom as well as in person at Portland Community College.



Abundance Collage

Image Source: <http://www.corapearllcalligraphy.com>

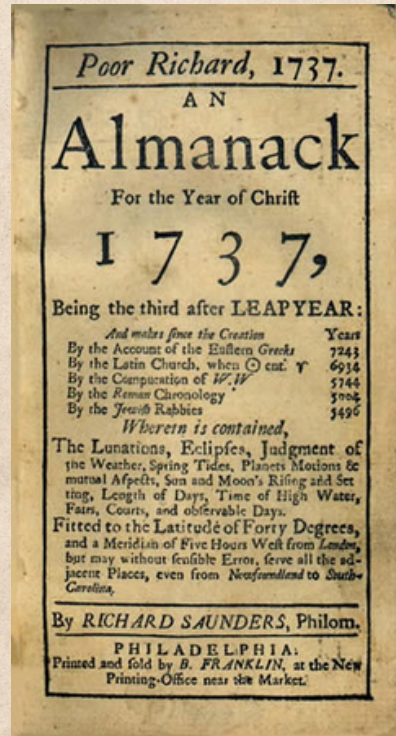
More Inspiration



Bentivoglio Hours

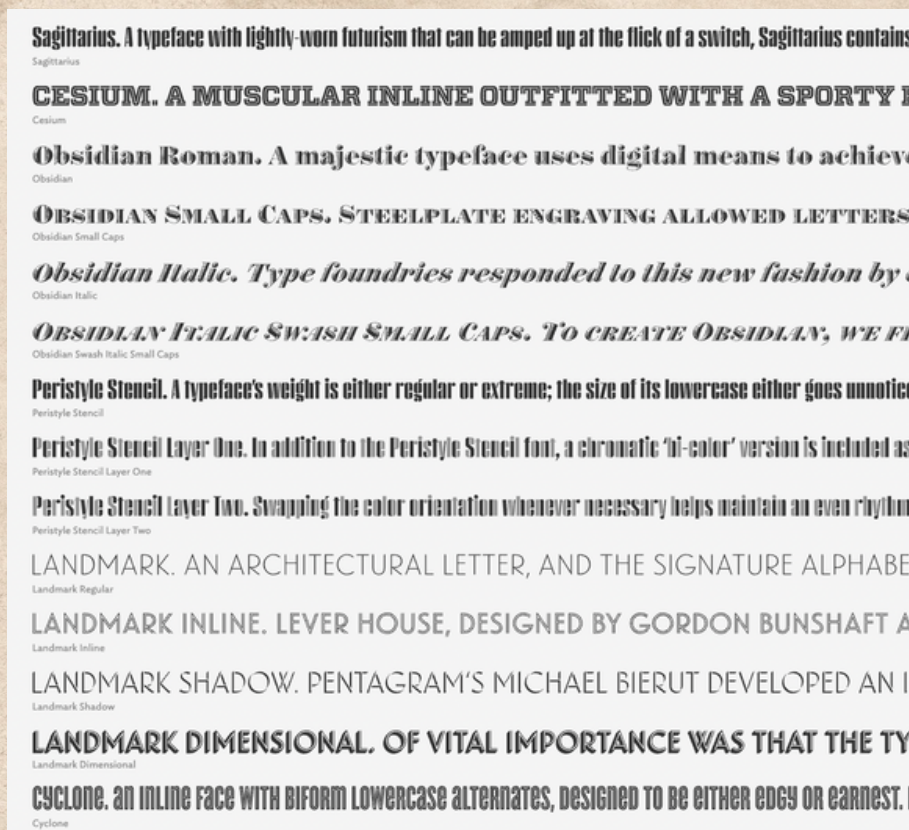
Image Source:

<https://www.vam.ac.uk/articles/illuminated-manuscripts>



Cover of *Poor Richard's Almanack* published by Benjamin Franklin

Image Source: Pennsylvania Center for the Book



Samples of fonts offered on:

<https://www.typography.com/fonts/styles/decorative>