

Nature Collage with Sarah Evans

Find inspiration on a walk to create a nature collage that plays with scale with artist Sarah Evans.

Suitable for all ages, children will need some support.

You will need:

- A camera, a phone camera is good*
- A small bag to gather objects
- An inkjet printer, if you have one*
- Pencil
- Take a walk on a spring day

**(If you do not have a camera or printer, you can still do this activity: you will need to find a landscape image in a book or magazine approx A4 in size)*



Instructions:

1. This activity **starts with a walk**, in which you try to observe all the detail around you, from the wide views to the small detail of flowers, leaves, twigs and stones. Thinking about the different sizes (and scales) of what you can see. *This activity encourages you to use your observational skills and focus on the detail of a site while gathering material to make an artwork.*
2. While you are walking, **take a photograph** of a wide view. Look for a view with open spaces as we will be adding things to this image when we make our collage.
3. **Collect** a few small natural objects while you walk; small stones, twigs, dried stems, leaves etc
4. Once you are home **print** an A4 copy of your landscape image (alternatively you can use a found landscape image from a book or magazine)
5. **Lay out** your collection of objects and sort them into different shapes or materials.

6. We are going to **place** some of the found objects into the image, imagine these are new interventions in the landscape. The small objects suddenly take on a new scale, pebbles can become large standing stones, twigs or seed heads become trees.
7. You can **experiment** with creating something pictorial like a forest of trees made out of twigs and leaves.
8. Or **make** something more abstract by repeating a shape from the same type of object to create a repeat pattern zig zagging through the landscape.
9. **Move the objects** around and try to get them to belong in the landscape. You may want to add some pencil shadows to help create the illusion.
10. **Play with perspective** by placing larger objects in the foreground and smaller ones in the background.
11. You can **make multiple pictures** by moving things around; if you have a camera you can take a photo of each new arrangement. Take your photo from above looking straight down at the image and zoom in so that you do not see the edge of the paper.

Take it Further:

- Use white acrylic paint to **take out areas** of the background image, or use pencil or pen to **create shadows** to help ground the objects in the landscape.
- **Play with scale:** while out on the walk the objects are small and seem insignificant compared to the wider landscape, but in the artwork the objects' scale is increased in a transformative way and they take on new characteristics - experiment by collecting similar objects of different sizes (i.e. a selection of stones) to test the effect.
- You could also experiment with **different backgrounds** (i.e. narrower view) adding the same object to see how its scale shifts.

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There are lots of activities on our website – what would you like to make next? Why not try Sarah's other activity [Flower Collage](#).

Sarah Evans

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