



# COLLAGE, CONSTRUCT & AFFIRM WORKSHOP

WITH INSTRUCTOR ROBEN-MARIE SMITH

## Supplies

- Canvas Pad - (2) - 16" x 20" (2) - 12" x 16"
- Bristol: 5 sheets @ 14" x 12.5"
- Wax thread
- Bookbinding needle
- Book awl/paper piercer
- Clear gesso
- Sewing machine
- Radiant Rain Shimmering Mist
- Liquitex Professional Acrylics
- Foam brush
- Chip brush
- Small piece of muslin fabric (about 1/8 of a yard)
- Collage papers: old book papers, vintage wallpaper, inky scrap paper, photo copies of your own artwork, etc.
- Gel Medium or PVA
- Ruler
- #2 Pencil
- Scissors
- Spray bottle with water
- Stabilo All Pencil
- Water brush
- Assorted acrylic paints: Open and Fluid
- Oil pastels
- Double stick Velcro
- Tim Holtz Distress Stains\*
- Water jar
- Affirmations (mine or print your own)
- Paper cutter (to trim pages for journals)
- Ice tray\*
- [Mixed Media Artist Papers Vol. 1\\*](#)
- Wite Out Shake 'n Squeeze Correction Pen

*\*Used by me but optional!*



See page 7 for specific ink and paint colors I used in creating my samples.



## TOP TEN STUDENT TIPS FROM SANDI...

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1. You are going to use every scrap of your canvases. Leave no corner or edge kinda ordinary. Add color, design and texture literally everywhere.

2. Your canvas has no direction. You are going to cut piece from different directions and orientations. Your collage elements need to be pleasing from any angle including upside down. Circles, squares, flowers, leaves, stars, spirals etc work great. Hearts, text, etc. have a direction - keep that in mind. Turn your canvas as you work looking at it from every direction.

3. I wanted words on my canvas. I tried to achieve this with the Stabilo All Pencil. It smears too much for text. I should have used India Ink. Stabilo gives you an artsy, dreamy look. Ink will be precise. Lesson learned. Another option is to add text as a final stage to your project after cutting and assembling.

4. It is easier to darken up a light canvas than it is to brighten up a dark canvas. If you love bright, keep that in mind with every layer you use. Consistency is the key.

5. Keep your canvases flat while they are drying. If an edge starts curling, weight the corner with an ink bottle etc. Flat canvases are so much easier to work with.

6. If you do not have an awl for the binding process, borrow or buy one. I tried two alternative methods (a push pin and sewing machine) and neither worked very well. I have begged RM to put awls in the store. Order one, you will thank me. Dibs on the first one!

7. Want to write your own affirmations? Open up your [Pinterest](#) account and look at your quotes board. Your inspiration is there waiting for you. If you don't have a quote board, search quotes. There are some great ones out there.



8. These projects make incredible gifts. There is NO WAY I am giving this portfolio journal away because I love it so much. I know I will be making more. Can you even imagine getting one as a gift? Wow.

9. My affirmation cards are going to be framed and put on my art studio wall. Instant art!

10. Consider doing this workshop with a friend. I sent my friend (Roben-Marie, I know, lucky me) Iphone photo updates and it was so much fun sharing the process with her. You need a friend to squeal with as these take shape.



## PART I - COLLAGAGE



In **Part I** you will be guided through the process of collaging, inking, marking and painting your canvases.



## PART II - CONSTRUCT



In **Part II** we will be constructing the journal. This will involve measuring, cutting, sewing and final preparation for our journal and the pocket inside!



## PART III - AFFIRM



In **Part III** we will create five inspirational affirmation cards. Positive affirmations help us replace negative thoughts with ones that are more positive. By repeating them and focusing on them we can change the way we see ourselves and feel about life. Feel free to use the affirmations provided in this workshop or create your own! Have fun!



## PART IV - BONUS PROJECTS



In **Part IV** we will create three additional projects: a small pouch, mini journal and a piece of mail art.



