

Collage: Outsider Art

Ruby Red Workshop
Tuesdays, 5:30 – 7:30 pm
4-week session, September 22 – October 13, 2026
Educator: Teresa Cribelli, ctcribelli@gmail.com

CLASS DESCRIPTION

Whether using paper or fabric, collage has long been practiced by women, people of color, and those without access to a formal art education. In this 4-week class students will examine the history of collage as an outsider art – how women and people of color used material at hand (paper and fabric scraps, for example) to create visual expressions that resonate powerfully today. Students will be asked to channel the spirit of these artists (many of whom remain unidentified) in creating their own works of art from the materials of daily life. The instructor will bring her expertise in history and collage to aid students in their exploration of this vibrant and accessible art form.

Pricing:

Museum Friend: \$130 / Member: \$135 / Student: \$135 / Non-Member: \$160

**Students will purchase their own materials and should expect to spend \$40-60.*

Refund and Class Cancellation Policy:

The Denver Art Museum adheres to a no-refund, no-exchange policy. If you are unable to attend, please consider your payment a tax-deductible donation.

If a class or workshop is cancelled by the Denver Art Museum due to inclement weather or teacher illness, a make-up day will be scheduled on a later TUESDAY as the educator's schedule allows.

Accessibility Statement:

To request large print materials, a sign language interpreter, CART or any other accessibility service, please email Access@DenverArtMuseum.org at least ten (10) business days in advance of the program. We will make every effort to provide accommodation for requests made outside of that window of time.

Please see further information about accessibility, parking, and directions to the DAM here: <https://www.denverartmuseum.org/en/accessibility>

Materials:

Students must purchase their own materials and bring them to each class session. The anticipated materials cost is \$40-60. Additional materials will be supplied.

The DAM partners with Denver-based [Meininger Art Material](#) to create class materials kits that can be ordered online and picked up or shipped locally. Students must pre-buy the kits online via the [Meininger's website](#) before picking up prior to the first day of class.

Item	Quantity	Suggested Link
Glue stick	2	UHU Glue Stick
Hot press watercolor paper	1 paper block	Fluid 100 Watercolor Paper Block

What to Expect:

The first three class sessions will include visits to the DAM permanent collection galleries to provide students with inspiration in ways to think about collage. Each class session will include a discussion of different collage techniques and approaches to collage in addition to work time. Students are encouraged to practice their "collage eye" outside of class and will be given the opportunity to share their experiences with the instructor and/or the class. Students will be provided with a collage starter kit and will be given guidance in looking for additional materials to add to their collage collection.

Timeline:

Week 1

The initial week of class will include a short presentation on the history of collage as an outsider art. The class will visit the Art of the Ancient Americas Galleries to spark their imagination. Students will be asked to find three elements (color, texture, and/or a figure) from pieces in the collection to inspire their collage practice. Students will examine Enrique Chagoya's contemporary *Escape from Fantasylandia: An Illegal Alien's Survival Guide* (2011), in the Art of the Ancient Americas Galleries to consider how collage is a powerful medium for exploring history and identity. This session will also include a discussion of collage materials and how to build a collection of collage supplies. Students will be guided through a three-element collage exercise to provide inspiration and instruction on collage

techniques. This exercise will also provide direction for developing a theme for personal collages in the following weeks.

Week 2

The second week of class will begin with a visit to the Modern and Contemporary Art Galleries for inspiration. Together, students will look for elements of collage in the gallery to inspire their practice. Students will also be asked to look for collage material in their daily lives and will have the opportunity to share what they found in the previous week. This exercise will help students practice their "collage eye," – the skill of finding new ways to interpret the material world around us. Together, as a class we will select a collection to explore for the third week session. Students will spend the rest of the class working on collages.

Week 3

The third week of class will begin with a visit to a new gallery of the students' choosing. The instructor will give a demonstration about tape transfers and using watercolor pencils to add details to collages. The rest of class time will be devoted to cutting, pasting, and selecting material for project collages.

Week 4

Studio time for students to finish their collages will be the focus of the final class. This session will also include time to reflect on what students collectively learned in class and to share their collages.

Educator:

Teresa Cribelli started her art career in the archive; inspired by the historical documents she used in her academic research in Brazil, she became interested in the ways that collage can bring the past and the present together. She was also inspired by the wheat paste street art of Rio de Janeiro. Part of Rio's vibrant street art culture, wheat paste posters (graphic art printed on paper and pasted to walls) became a type of open-air collective collage she watched for on her daily commute. Inspired by the outsider artists who make street art, she began collecting and then experimenting with vintage papers to make her own collages.

Bringing her training as a historian to her practice (she taught Latin American History at the University of Alabama for 11 years) Teresa uses her small-scale analog collages to make visual statements about power, gender, and the environment told through the lens of history. Her work has been shown at Kolaj Fest in New Orleans and Paperworkers Local in Birmingham, Alabama among other venues. Her pieces are held in private collections and in the Doug and Laurie Kanyer Art Collection. Street art pieces based on her collages can be seen in

Tuscaloosa and Birmingham, Alabama; Denver, Colorado; Barcelona, Spain; and São Luís, Brazil.

<https://www.instagram.com/tacoflotilla/>

WORKSHOP SPACE POLICIES

About:

The Ruby Red Workshop is a dedicated space for Creative Classes and adult programs located on the first floor of the DAM's Martin Building. Students can expect a traditional style art workshop with tables and four-legged chairs with backrests. There are a variety of other seating options available. Sinks, soaps, paper towels, and waste receptacles are accessible in the workshop. Restrooms are located in the elevator bay just outside the workshop entrance. Food and beverages are allowed inside the workshop space, please ensure that you do not enter any galleries with these items.

Each class is different and does not follow a strict or set structure, but will generally include instructor presentations and demonstrations, class gallery visits to view artworks in the DAM collections, individual work time supported by class instructor and assistant, and discussion or share-out time of finished works and works-in-progress.

Cleanup:

Please remove all artworks from the classroom at the end of each class. If wet paintings or in-progress artworks need to be stored in the classroom, there is limited storage on drying racks and in the equipment closet. Students must take home their own materials after each class. Please ensure that art supplies and equipment belonging to the DAM are put back in the appropriate locations. Sponges, paper towels, and cleaning solution are provided in the classroom for cleanup.

Classroom Access:

Students will have access to the classroom only during scheduled class hours. Please contact Mia DeBakker, Creative & Public Engagement Coordinator, if you need to arrange entrance to the Workshop outside of those hours – mdebakker@denverartmuseum.org.

QUESTIONS

Questions about class content, curriculum, materials, etc. can be directed to Mia DeBakker at mdebakker@denverartmuseum.org or Sarah Rockett at srockett@denverartmuseum.org.

For any questions concerning your registration, please reach out to our Sales & Service Team at info@denverartmuseum.org or (720) 913-0130.

Thank you for being part of Creative Classes at the DAM!