

## "Foil & Oil" Paper Collage



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Texture and light are the shining stars of this mixed media combo of metallic paper and oil pastel

In the early 20th century, Japanese artist Kanae Yamamoto published a book explaining his ideas for teaching children in a way that allowed them to explore, be creative, and express themselves through art. Known as the "Jiyu-ga" method (from "Jiyuu," meaning "freedom"), it was met with enthusiastic support and also strong opposition.

Two teachers that supported Kanae's ideas believed that art education could only progress with the use of modern art supplies. Up until then, Japanese children were taught to use black ink and follow strict guidelines. The teachers invented an oil, wax, and pigment stick that allowed students to experience bold color, the immediacy of drawing, and the expressiveness of painting all at the same time. It was the first oil pastel.

In the spirit of Jiyuu, this "Oil & Foil" technique presents a new, freely-expressive way for students to experiment with texture, color, and light.

It starts with a collage of foil paper followed by layers of oil pastel. Techniques of debossing and sgraffito reveal the metallic glow in just the right areas. Expression and depth are created by contrasting areas of shine and matte, smoothness and texture, plus bright and subdued color. Whether abstract or representational, art created on foil with oil pastels is as appealing to make as it is to view.

**Note: Instructions and materials are based upon a class size of 24 students. Adjust as needed.**



### Materials (required)

**Blick Illustration Board**, 20" x 30", 14 ply (13414-1003); share two sheets across class

**Hygloss Metallic Foil Paper**, 8.5" x 10", assorted colors, pkg of 24 sheets (11205-1002); share two pkgs across class

**Elmer's Extra-Strength Blue Stick**, 0.21 oz, pkg of 2 (23952-1001); share 12 across class

**Blick Essentials Oil Pastels**, set of 16 (21095-1169); share 12 across class

**Genuine Boxwood Tool Set** of 3 (60502-1009); share 12 across class

### Optional Materials

**Yasutomo Aurora Iridescent Squares**, 5.875" x 5.875", pkg of 8 sheets, assorted colors (11206-0059)

**Fold 'Ems Opalescent Foil Origami Project Paper**, 5.875" x 5.875", pkg of 8 sheets (11244-1008)

**Fiskars Embossing Stylus**, dual-tip (60373-1021)

**Sennelier Oil Pastels**, assorted colors (20038-)

**Sennelier D'Artigny Pastel Fixative**, 400 ml (21700-1004)

**Gray Paper Stumps**, assorted sizes (22943-)



### Ready to order materials?

Go to [www.DickBlick.com/lesson-plans/foil-and-oil-paper-collage](http://www.DickBlick.com/lesson-plans/foil-and-oil-paper-collage) to access a product bundle for your convenience.



## Preparation

1. Using a paper cutter, trim illustration board to 5" x 7" pieces. A 20" x 30" board will produce 16 pieces.
2. Cut foil paper sheets in half or quarters for easier distribution across class. Multiple sheets at a time can be cut on a paper trimmer.

## Process

1. Plan and execute a collage from foil papers onto illustration board. For best results, start by lightly sketching a design with pencil onto the surface. Concentrate on large shapes, outlines, and placement rather than details of the design.
2. Cover the sketch with foil papers, using a variety of colors, shapes, and sizes. Cut or tear shapes, layering and positioning pieces with a glue or a glue stick. Allow folds and wrinkles in the paper to remain and create purposeful texture by crinkling the papers.
3. Define outlines of the main shapes by impressing lines using wooden or embossing tools. Use enough pressure to press into the board beneath the foil, but not too much pressure so that the paper tears.
4. Work oil pastel colors over the surface of the design. The wax will dull the metallic colors except in the areas where it has been. If desired, colors can be blended with each other directly or using fingers, a blending stump, or cloth. Use light pressure to blend so that color does not move into the impressed lines.
5. After covering an area with pastel, use the tools to impress more texture and detail, pushing into the soft illustration board while revealing the glow of the foil again. The process of working through the pastel coating to the metallic surface beneath is known as "sgraffito" - which is Italian for "scratching". In this step, use techniques such as stippling, cross-hatching, and parallel linework to create a variety of textural effects.
6. Again, work pastel over the surface. The impressions will have formed a variety of raised and lowered surfaces - a double-embossing. Lines and designs of shiny metallic foil are revealed and surrounded by contrasting areas of waxy, matte oil pastel.
7. Areas can be scraped, impressed, and reworked as desired until the artwork is deemed complete.



**Step 1:** Glue foil paper pieces to illustration board to create a collage. Create texture with paper and by impressing with tools.



**Step 2:** Work oil pastel over the design and use tools to scratch the color away, revealing the metal beneath.



**Step 3:** Repeat with more pastel and more line work as desired.

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## Options

- Oil pastels are available in scholastic, intermediate, and professional grades. Opacity and color intensity will vary greatly, depending on the grade of pastel used.

## NOTE:

- Because of their base composition of mineral oil and wax, the surface of an oil pastel artwork will remain tacky. Professional artists will usually frame a piece under glass for preservation.

Spray fixative will make the artwork less fragile and feel hard to the touch. Using a formula developed specifically for oil pastel is recommended.

Using an acrylic varnish or medium either in spray or liquid form may give the appearance of sealing the oil pastel surface, however, there will not be a permanent bond and problems will likely occur later.

- **Oil Sticks** are alternatives to oil pastels that cure in the same manner as oil paintings. These can be found in the Oil Painting category along with tubes of oil color: [www.dickblick.com/categories/painting/oil-paint](http://www.dickblick.com/categories/painting/oil-paint).

## National Core Arts Standards - Visual Arts

### Creating

**Anchor Standard 1:** Generate and conceptualize artistic ideas and work.

**Anchor Standard 2:** Organize and develop artistic ideas and work.

### Connecting

**Anchor Standard 10:** Synthesize and relate knowledge and personal experience to make art

