



OCBPG

COLLAGE
WORKSHOP
WITH QU
LEILEI

6th
November
2023

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As part of the Chinese Brush Painting Society (CBPS) Annual General Meeting (AGM) 2022 arrangements, Oxfordshire Chinese Brush Painting Group (OCBPG) invited Qu Leilei to provide a Workshop for members on using Collage.

This workshop was in two parts.

Part 1, preparing our papers for the collage work, via Zoom 19th October 2022.

Part 2, constructing the collage at the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford on Sunday 6th November 2022, and by Zoom

There were 46 participants across the two Zoom sessions and the in-person Workshop at the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford. This dual delivery mode was a first for the Ashmolean and only possible via their state-of-the-art technology. The idea to use it in this way was ours!

In the following pages we are pleased to include some of the collages sent to us by CBPS members who were inspired by the Workshop.

At the end of this book, we have provided a materials list and the recipe for the special paste that Leilei uses, so that many more people can have a go at making their own collages.

Enjoy!





Figure 1 Dorothy Fischer



Figure 2 Looi Leung "Crisis"



Figure 3 Tony Howells 1



Figure 4 Tony Howells 2



Figure 5 Chris Newson

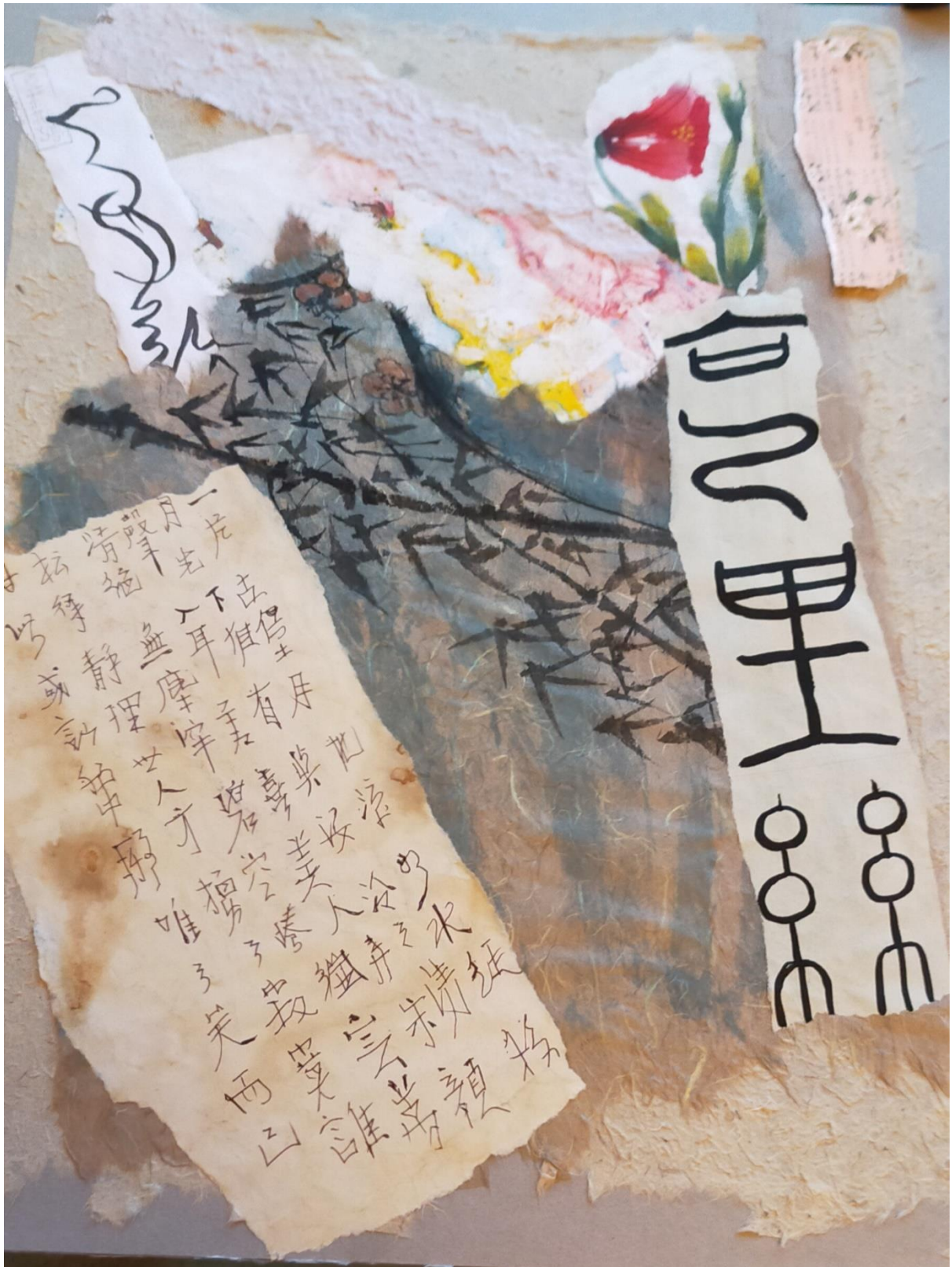


Figure 6 Chris Newson 2



Figure 7 Margaret Wall



Figure 8 Gillian Graffey 1



Figure 9 Gillian Graffy 2



Figure 10 Gillian Graffy 3



Figure 11 Colleen Kangwai



Figure 13 Pauline Cherrett



Figure 14 Zara Taylor 1 After the storm



Figure 15 Zara Taylor 2 Heaven and Earth



Figure 16 Zara Taylor 3 Before the storm



Figure 17 Zara Taylor 4 Gold paper



Figure 18 Zara Taylor 5 Indian Gold Fleck



Figure 19 Keith Hickson Apparition



Figure 20 Leda Fletcher



Figure 21 Kim Duffell 1



Figure 22 Kim Duffell 2



Figure 23 Ann Massing

Materials List

For the image:

You will need to give some thoughts on the image you want to create. Then gather together:

- Pictures you want to collage with
- Interesting textured and/or painted papers
- Calligraphy if you have some
- A background sheet to collage on to- this can be painted or something with an interesting texture

Mounting Equipment Required

- Scissors
- Kitchen towel
- Water spray
- A palette knife if you have one to help transfer wet pieces
- A small clean brush to paste the collage pieces
- Brushes to paste the backing sheet onto the completed collage
- A container to hold the paste big enough to fit the backing brush
- Newspaper
- Backing paper – e.g. a roll of bark paper in a suitable size
- A bamboo Chinese backing brush if you have one- don't worry if you haven't got one
- A board to mount the backed picture on or a suitable cupboard door to leave the picture to dry – this needs to be at least one inch (1") all round bigger than the image you are planning to create and needs to be thick enough not to bend as the painting dries. NB. Contact me on ocbp.art@gmail.com to discuss if you have trouble sourcing one or carrying to the Ashmolean or home again.

Making the Glue

To mount an average size picture or two, you will need 2oz (57gms) of plain flour.

Equipment: A large bowl

A saucepan

A metal sieve

A paste tray (an old food container will do, but you need to be able to get your paste brush in it)

Method

Mix the flour with enough water to form a very soft dough, and then knead as you would be bread. Leave it stand for a minimum of one hour. Longer if possible.

When it has a plastic texture, put about 1.5 litres of water in a bowl and put a very fine sieve in the bowl in the water.

Now scrunch the dough in the water in the bowl over the sieve. Keep going until you are left with the residue in your hand. This should have the texture of chewing gum.

Take the sieve out of the bowl and wash it thoroughly.

Stir the liquid in the bowl.

Sieve the liquid in the bowl through the sieve again into another container, or into a saucepan being careful to ensure that any residue remains in the original bowl.

Heat the liquid very slowly until it boils and keep heating it until it thickens and turns translucent

When it is translucent, remove from the heat and leave to cool, preferably overnight.

Transfer to a sealable container. It can be kept in the fridge for a few days if you don't want to use it immediately

Transfer what you need into your paste tray and dilute and mix with water until it is the consistency of double cream.

NB If you can't face this process, buy some starch based /cellulose paste. I used to buy 10 small packets of Brian Clegg papier mache paste for children, but sadly, the company fell victim to Covid and it is no longer available. The nearest alternative I have found is Scola Cellulose Adhesive Papier mache Craft Paste. Available from Amazon. A 60g bag sufficient to make 7 litres is £6.95. Just use a couple of teaspoons. I find it best to mix it with boiling water and when cooled to keep in the fridge. It will keep for a couple of weeks like this.

You can buy starch based wallpaper paste too. If you do, get the one without a fungicide in if you can. The fungicide turns brown after a while.



Figure 24 Collage by Leilei on display in Gallery 11 of the Ashmolean Museum until May 23rd 2023