

## Wallach Sketch Sessions

An Introduction to Collage

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Hi, my name is Julia Rooney. Welcome back to week two. In today's session, we're going to be extending the activity we did last week which, as a reminder, was to make a contour drawing of an object that you found in your home. So here are my drawings, and as a reminder, this was my object, a small scale that I use to weigh mail.

In this activity, all you'll need are the drawings that you made last week, glue, tape, scissors, a pen, a piece of tracing paper, and any kind of newspapers, magazines, or printed matter that you don't mind cutting up and has a range of text, pattern, images, colors, etc.

So what is a pattern? A pattern is an arrangement of repeating forms and/or colors. Patterns are all around us. So to get us started in this activity, we're going to take another few minutes to walk around our living space and look for patterns. Take at least five photographs of patterns that you see, and look everywhere.

Here are some examples from my own apartment. I found that patterns were especially common in textiles, architectural elements, and nature. Floral and vegetal patterns also appeared frequently in painted ceramics.

Now return to the four drawings you made last week. Study them, and specifically think about which composition is most interesting to you. Remember that word from last week. Composition is the arrangement of visual elements in frame. Which drawing makes your eye move most actively around the page? Does your line make contact with every side of the frame, or are there points that are completely empty?

For instance, compare these two drawings. In the drawing on the right, the line moves around the entire page, touching all four sides of the frame in multiple places. In the drawing on the left, fewer edges are activated and there's a large spot at the upper right where nothing is going on at all, and little reason for the eye to travel there. Ultimately, there is no right or wrong in this, just spend some time thinking about your drawings.

When you've chosen your drawing, lay a piece of tracing paper over it. Or, if you don't have that, you can use wax or parchment paper from the kitchen. Another option is to tape your drawing on a window with a piece of regular printer paper over it. As the light comes through, the lines underneath will be visible. Whichever option you choose, now trace the lines of your original drawing onto the new sheet of paper.

Now, start going through your newspapers, magazines and other printed materials. Sift through them looking for patterns of different colors and textures. In addition to patterns, you can choose photos that are representational, like images of buildings or trees.

Take your trace drawing, and lay it over a pattern of your choosing. It may help to tape the pages together so they don't move. Cut along the lines so you get a piece of paper in the shape of this same section from the drawing. This piece will ultimately get collaged onto the page.

Continue picking patterns and cutting out shapes until you have all parts of the composition accounted for. Have fun with this.

Now, take the pieces and start gluing them down on the contoured drawing, building up the composition with color and pattern.