

45 THINGS TO TRY IN YOUR Art Journal

Roben-Marie Smith; Art Journaling Spring 2018

1. Small chipboard or wooden letters make great 3-D additions to a journal page. Use them to say what you're thinking or let them simply function as embellishments. Either way, they'll be an eye-popping detail.

– Tina Walker; Art Journaling Winter 2016

2. Look back to those tried-and-true crafting techniques when working in your art journal. Heat-embossing is always an effective way to create texture and interest.

– Tina Walker; Art Journaling Winter 2016

3. For a subtle way to make your pages special, try distressing the paper that you create upon. Crumpling paper creates interesting creases, and coffee- or tea-staining pages provides a wonderfully aged tone.

– Cathy Bluteau; Art Journaling Winter 2016

4. You don't have to stop after applying paint — take things a bit further by scratching lines or patterns into the paint while still wet. The result will amp up the energy of any design.

– Amber Walker; Art Journaling Winter 2016

5. To emphasize your message, write it within a metal-rimmed tag. Make it even more custom by adhering patterned paper or a cut-out image within the tag, and you've got a one-of-a-kind embellishment.

– Debbie Barton Haverly; Art Journaling Winter 2016

6. Stenciling letters can seem a bit daunting at first, but stencils are easy to use and create a ton of depth when layered. Throw in a few stenciled patterns as well and your artwork will be sure to impress.

– Andrea Chebeleu; Art Journaling Winter 2016

7. If you're a fan of magazine cutouts, you know the struggle of trying to write upon those glossy pages. A simple swipe of flat, white paint provides the perfect place for a bit of journaling.

– Nancy Baumiller; Art Journaling Winter 2016

8. Make a simple illustration special by going bold with color. Leave realistic palettes behind and choose shades that catch the eye and communicate on an emotional level.

– Mindy Lacefield; Art Journaling Winter 2016



9. Adding pockets to a page is an ingenious, organized way to store beloved photos or ephemera. Constructing the pocket with vellum allows for a sneak peek into the insides of the pocket.

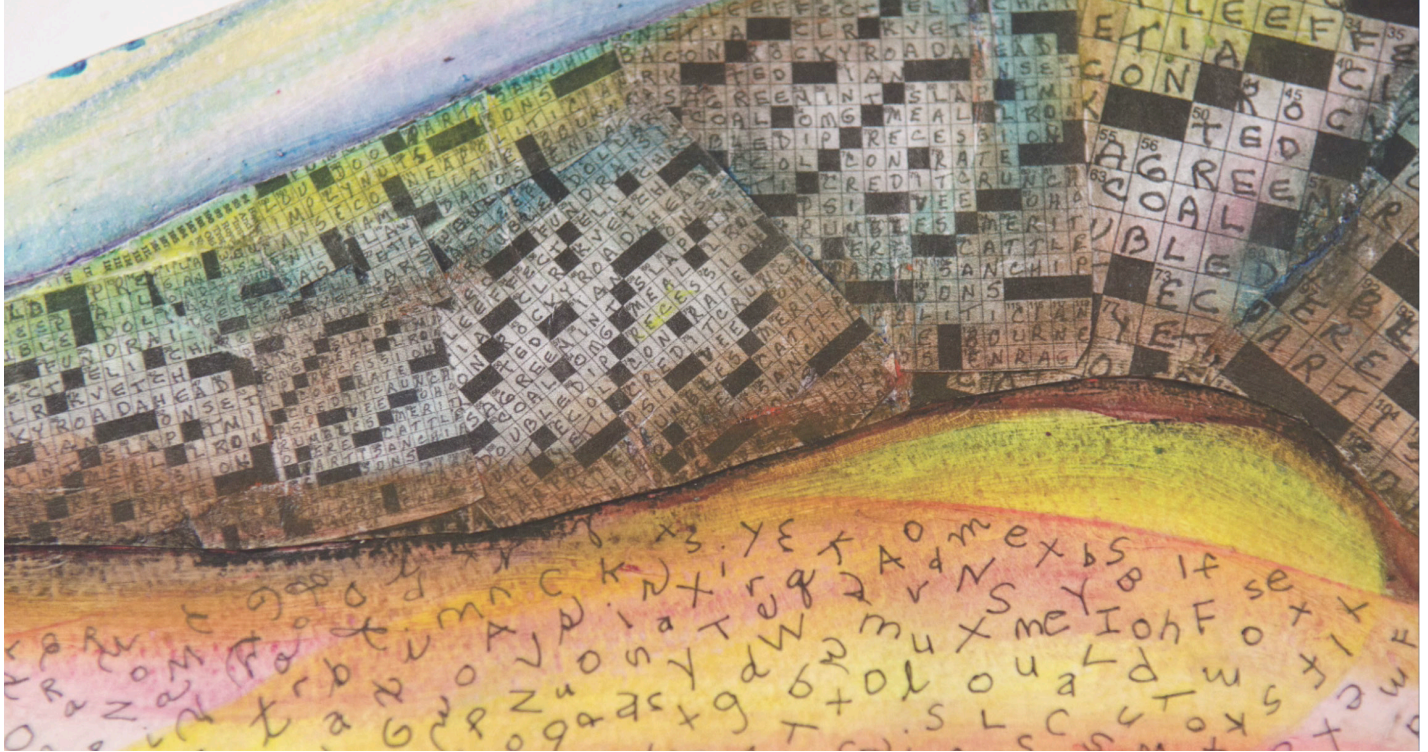
– Roben-Marie Smith; Art Journaling Spring 2018

10. An art journal is the perfect place to leave reality behind. When choosing ephemera for collage, invent new uses for everyday objects to infuse your art with whimsical surprises.

– Dianne Fago; Art Journaling Spring 2016

11. An incredibly easy way to add texture to your journal page is to turn to your sewing kit for scraps of thread. Apply adhesive to the journal page, and haphazardly place the thread atop the wet adhesive.

– Olga Siedlecka; Art Journaling Spring 2016



Linda Meza; Art Journaling Spring 2016

12. An excellent source of pattern and interest awaits you in your morning paper. Crossword puzzles can be cut or torn and added to a collage as an unexpected design element. Feel free to save time by simply filling in the puzzle with random letters before cutting it apart.

– Linda Meza; Art Journaling Spring 2016

13. A black pastel is a versatile art supply for adding shading and drama. Emphasize your ephemera by outlining it with black pastel, and consider smudging the pigment a bit for an even more artistic look.

– Nancy Bales; Art Journaling Spring 2016

14. If illustration is not your strong point, the thought of creating realistic-looking fur on an animal may seem daunting. Try drawing a number of small straight lines to create the illusion of fur — you will be surprised just how effective this technique is!

– Tammy Murdock; Art Journaling Spring 2016

15. There are countless ways to incorporate decorative tape into your designs, like creating a frame using a variety of patterned tapes. Switch up this conventional design element by making some strips of tape longer than others for an asymmetrical look.

– Nancy Bales; Art Journaling Spring 2018

16. Before die-cutting letters or shapes, consider the ways you can make the result unique. Use modeling paste and a stencil or dry-emboss cardstock to create touchable texture, and then die-cut to your heart's content.

– Marjie Kemper; Art Journaling Spring 2016

17. Elevate any object by encrusting it with jewels. A hat image becomes haute couture with the addition of rhinestones and pearls.

– Heather Kindt; Art Journaling Summer 2016

18. Repeated elements always catch the eye, and sometimes it's a technique that even mirrors real life. Just as real elephants march single file, their rubber-stamped counterparts can be lined up end to end.

– Artwork by Kate Yetter; Art Journaling Summer 2016

19. Make a stamped image all the more interesting by stamping it onto a book page, cutting it out, and adhering it to your art journal page. Try looking for text that corresponds to the image for even more intrigue.

– Kristin Williams; Art Journaling Summer 2016

20. Use a scrap of cheesecloth to create the perfect delicate bird's nest. As an added bonus, cheesecloth absorbs ink very well, allowing for even more customization.

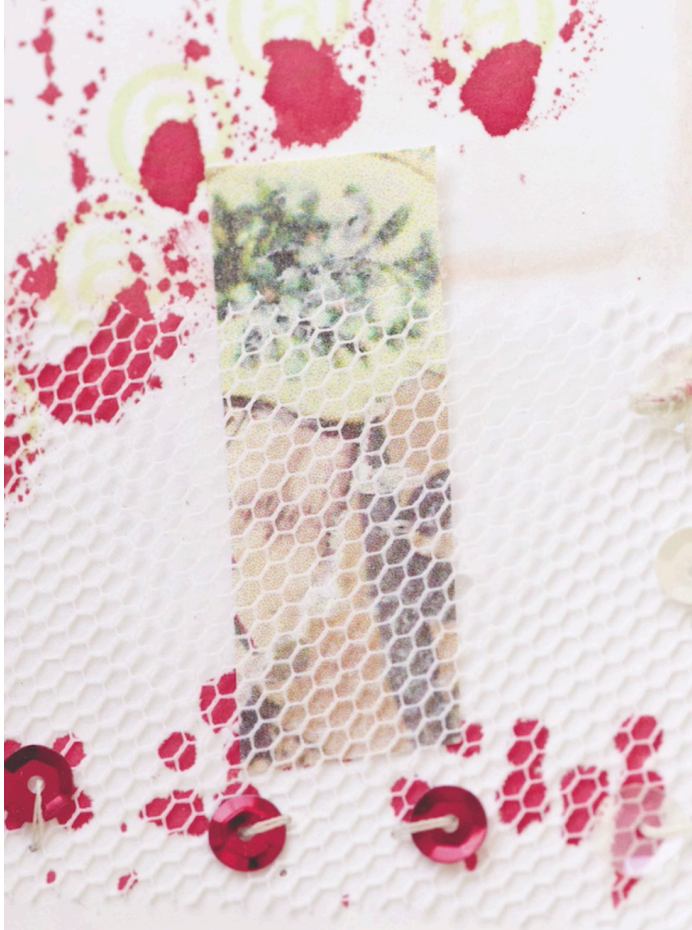
– Peggy Gatto; Art Journaling Summer 2016

21. When you're done creating a background, ask yourself if it could use just one more layer. A piece of fine mesh adhered over a background adds irresistible texture.

– Heather Kindt; Art Journaling Summer 2016

22. For a realistic and fun way to mimic the look of glass, apply a layer of crackle medium to an embellishment for that telltale texture and shine.

– Heather Kindt; Art Journaling Summer 2016



Mary Walden; Art Journaling Winter 2017

23. Instead of using glue, trap a piece of ephemera behind tulle or cheesecloth. The material will add amazing texture and help obscure finer details if you're feeling secretive.

– Mary Walden; Art Journaling Winter 2017

24. Capture one of your favorite products by sketching it on paper, cutting it out, and adding it to a collage. Or, create a product that you wish existed!

– Jennifer Bombgardner; Art Journaling Summer 2016

25. A stamped image becomes even more impactful with a bit of pattern in the background. The consistent text of a book page would add just enough interest without being distracting.

– Heather Kindt; Art Journaling Autumn 2016

26. A solid-colored design element doesn't have to be plain. Cut a piece of textured fabric into small pieces and use them as mosaic tiles to fill in a shape. The result will be a subtle surprise!

– Heather Kindt; Art Journaling Autumn 2016

27. If your art journal pays homage to a certain country or culture, use postage stamps from the region as collage fodder — a piece of ephemera that is completely on point!

– Marilyn Roane; Art Journaling Autumn 2016

28. To make metallic inks and paint really shine, apply them to black paper or cardstock. Not only will their shimmer be more brilliant but the drama added by the dark background is also truly eye-catching.

– Deborah Company; Art Journaling Autumn 2016

29. There are few techniques simpler than creating a background with decorative tape. Choose a variety of patterns and textures, and don't be afraid to overlap the tape. The more layers, the better!

– Marjie Kemper; Art Journaling Autumn 2016

30. Play peek-a-boo by using a craft punch or craft knife to cut out a shaped window from an art journal page. Plan your placement carefully so the window reveals something that's really worth peeking at.

– Marjie Kemper; Art Journaling Autumn 2016

31. If you have an old journal page that needs to be repurposed, cut it up into shaped tiles and use them to create a pattern on a new journal page. Choose an interesting shape to make it more fun, like a hexagon!

– Marjie Kemper; Art Journaling Autumn 2016

32. To mimic the look of an Old World fresco, apply a layer of texture paste to the page before adding your imagery. The plaster-like effect is oh so touchable.

– Tina Walker; Art Journaling Autumn 2016

33. Emphasize text with a line of simple hand stitching. Choose embroidery floss in a color that will pop off the page and symbolize the mood behind the words.

– Ana Campos; Art Journaling Winter 2017

34. It's great when an addition to your art journal can be beautiful and functional too. For example, metal corners will protect a journal cover from damage while also adding drama to the overall appearance.

– Linda Meza; Art Journaling Winter 2017

35. Push the boundaries of a portrait and create clothing from torn scraps of paper. Paper containing text, handwriting, and texture will make this technique truly shine.

– Linda Meza; Art Journaling Winter 2017

36. Create a picture-perfect image by placing a frame over a face or figure. This will elevate the intrigue of a magazine cutout or bring attention to a special person on the page.

– Heather Kindt; Art Journaling Winter 2017

37. Be unpredictable by placing an unexpected item in the center of a flower. A scrap of ribbon would add rustic texture and make a flower one-of-a-kind.

– *Brigid Gallagher Davies; Art Journaling Winter 2017*

38. Skip the usual embellishments for a detail that garners second looks and begs to be touched. A small scrap of sandpaper would draw viewers in for more.

– *Mary Walden; Art Journaling Winter 2017*

39. An image heat-embossed in black is already quite bold, but outline the details with white pen to make it truly pop off the page.

– *Tina Walker; Art Journaling Summer 2016*

40. Layering ephemera is an easy way to include a variety of patterns and dimension on any journal page. Incorporate a patterned transparent panel into your design to add interest while still showing off the artwork underneath.

– *Kate Yetter; Art Journaling Spring 2018*

41. Nature is a popular theme that can be explored in a number of ways. Bring the great outdoors into your journal by using a leaf as the background of your handwritten thoughts.

– *Elizabeth Tichvon; Art Journaling Spring 2018*

42. Sometimes it's the small almost unnoticeable details that elevate your artwork. Next time you pen a word to act as your focal point, add minute patterns to the letters for interest.

– *Carrie Todd; Art Journaling Spring 2016*

43. With so many pages in an art journal, it can be hard to track down that one page or element you may be looking for. Stitching tabs onto the top of your pages can serve as a helpful guide to the contents of your journal.

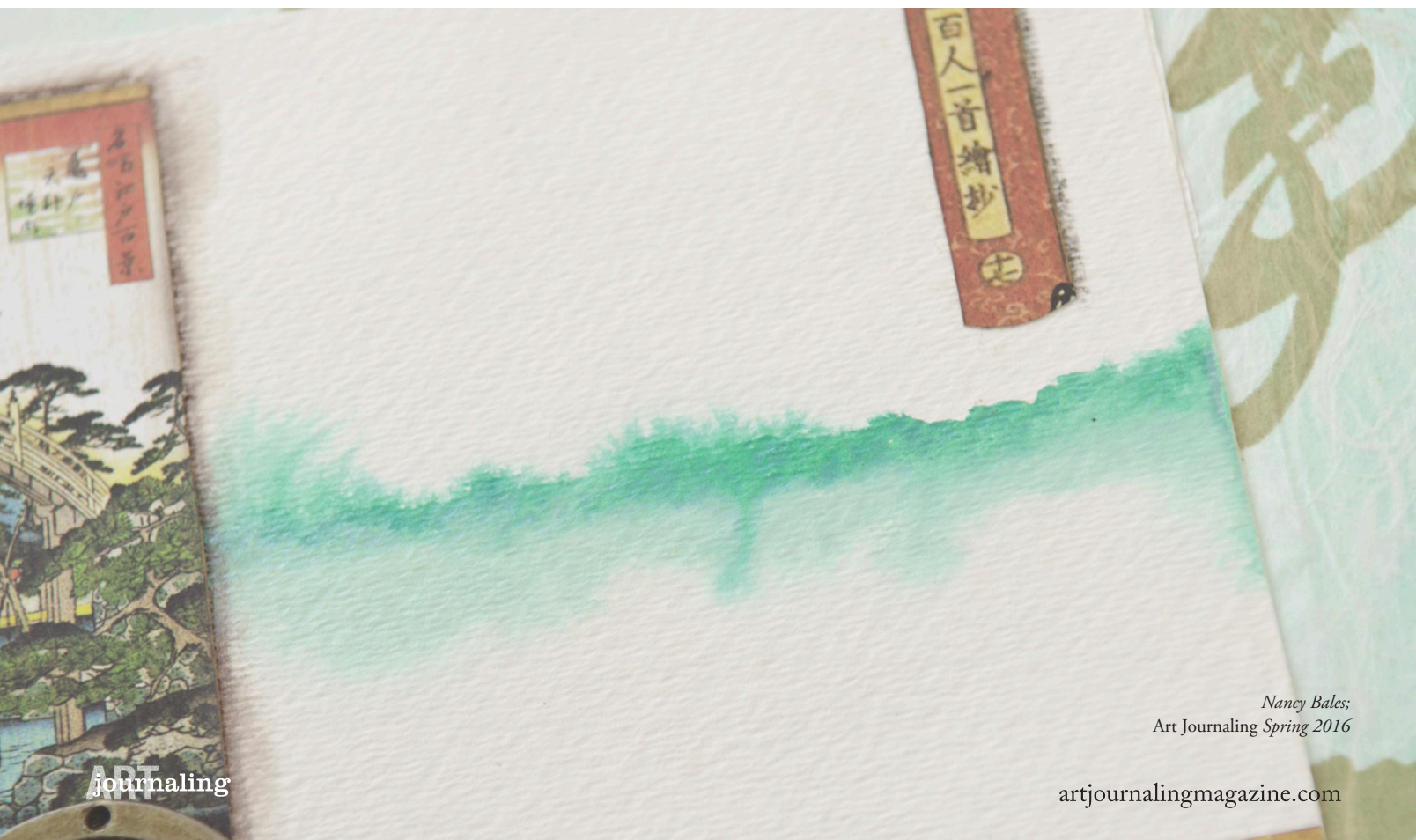
– *Roben-Marie Smith; Art Journaling Spring 2018*

44. Stencils are an easy way to create a shared background on the pages of an art journal with a continued theme. To change things up from page to page, integrate small details within the stenciled design.

– *Tina Walker; Art Journaling Spring 2018*

45. If you are a fan of the dreamy effects of watercolor but are intimidated to try it on a large scale, a simple swipe across the page can have a big impact. You could also try a watercolor pencil and explore how more or less water changes the results.

– *Nancy Bales; Art Journaling Spring 2016*



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