

RECOVERY ART

Journey Home

A creative and social workshop



Hello Recovery Art Members!

We hope you are all safe and well, welcome to June's Recovery Art session. This month's theme is Journey Home!

Over the next three months we will be focusing on the theme of Journeys. We will explore familiar journeys, journeys home to our favourite places, new journeys and the journey we have all been on with Recovery Art.

What do we notice on a journey and how they might have changed? We can investigate our footprint, pathway or route to a place and think about how we can record these in a creative way throughout the summer months.

We hope that these sessions are helping to support you, your wellbeing and your creative practice. These workshops are a way to create together, share ideas and feel connected to The Barber Institute's collection.

This June's workshop is supported by our Recovery Art zoom session on Monday 28th June. Please use this resource and our recording of the workshop in your own time and space if you prefer.

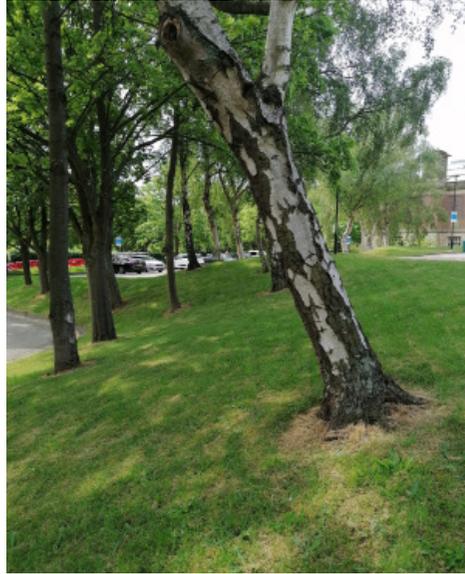
Journey to The Barber

With the world opening up a little more and with our planned get together at Winterbourne gardens on the 12th July, I wanted to share with you my visit to the Barber building this month where I was warmly welcomed by Flora.

We will be exploring the Barber Building during this session, looking and using some of the images from my visit to inspire and create collage and photo montages.

We hope this session helps you to become more familiar and comfortable again with The Barber Institute building, helping you to envisage the gallery and different spaces. We will explore the Barber Building, architecture, furniture, works of art and the true spirit of the gallery through taking part in this workshop.





I also want to share not just the images and visual references but also the emotions I felt and how the journey has made me feel.

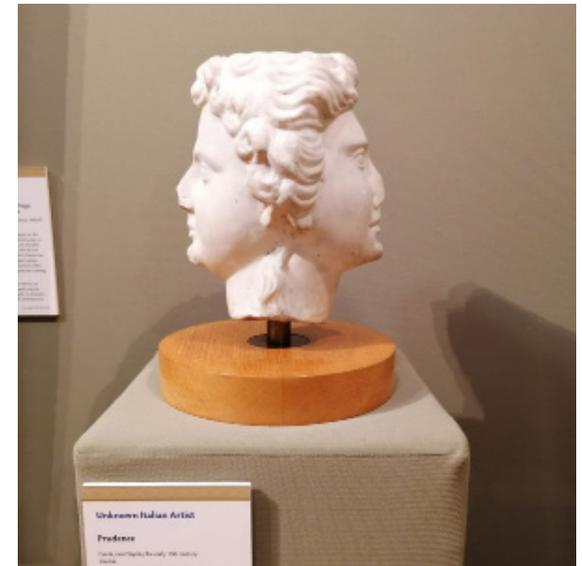
You could use this time now to visualise your favourite part of the Barber Institute or even try to imagine being in the gallery while looking at your favourite piece of artwork.



Inside the Barber Institute

When revisiting loved places for the first time in a while it can be daunting, but also a very exciting experience and our senses may take over as we notice textures, shapes, surfaces, smells and temperatures, giving us a whole sensory experience.

I felt nervous when first entering the Barber but the warm welcome I received from Flora and the front of house team settled me and I felt immediate calm. As I walked around the building I was able to do this at a slow pace and I could take in all of the visual references which I had previously probably took for granted. I could encounter the spaces with a new vision and a new outlook. I especially noticed the materials within the building, the marble, glass, wood and metal. I felt very aware of how they might feel to touch. The richness of these textures had a homely, cosy and welcoming feel. After my visit I felt lifted and inspired.



When looking at journeys we have been thinking of positive words to describe these:

EXCITING

FAMILIAR

TRANSPORT

FREEDOM

TRAVEL

LOCATE

NAVIGATE

Materials:

Barber photo sheets
Map photo sheet
Paper

Things you might have at home:

Scissors
Glue stick
Old magazines and
newspapers
Photographs

Take a moment to get
comfortable and make a tea.
Gather our art materials,
thoughts and a biscuit or 2...





Frank Auerbach, *Primrose Hill - Winter*, 1981-2.
© The Henry Barber Trust, The Barber Institute of Fine Arts,
University of Birmingham.

Lets celebrate The Barber's Collection of Fine Arts

During this month's session we thought it would be good to celebrate The Barbers Collection of Fine arts by thinking about our favourite pieces with in the gallery. With so many pieces to choose from it might help to visit the Barber Institute's website www.barber.org.uk where you can view the collection and other aspects of the gallery.

We would love to discuss and chat with you about your favourites; you could look back through some of the PDF's we have sent you over this last year.

One of my favourite pieces within the collection is...

Frank Auerbach's *Primrose Hill - Winter*, oil on board, painted in London in 1981-2. This modern, large, abstract and texture painting is situated in the Red Gallery.



Primrose Hill – Winter captures the moment at dusk when the park-like landscape is lit by the last glimmers of daylight and the streetlamps have just flickered into life – or, perhaps, the corresponding moment at dawn.

The strong diagonals of the footpaths give movement, structure and depth to the composition. Although reworked and revised over a prolonged period of time, this landscape is also, paradoxically, an expression of a momentary insight into the nature of an everyday scene. By 1955, Auerbach had settled in the Camden Town area of north London that has remained his home ever since. His later landscapes relate obsessively and exclusively to the immediately surrounding cityscape.

I love spending time in the gallery looking at this work. I'm not sure if it's the scale, texture or colour that I'm drawn to but I think it reminds me of when I used to spend time looking through modern art books in the college library when I was a student. I felt very excited by the bold confident pieces by Jasper Johns, Mark Rothko and Peter Blake and Jann Haworth.

I often think about why I'm drawn to a piece of art and would it differ from day to day, week to week, depending on how I'm feeling, what time of year it is, or what is happening in my life at that time.

We may have new favourites, preferences and enquiries into art works.

Preparing to create a photomontage...

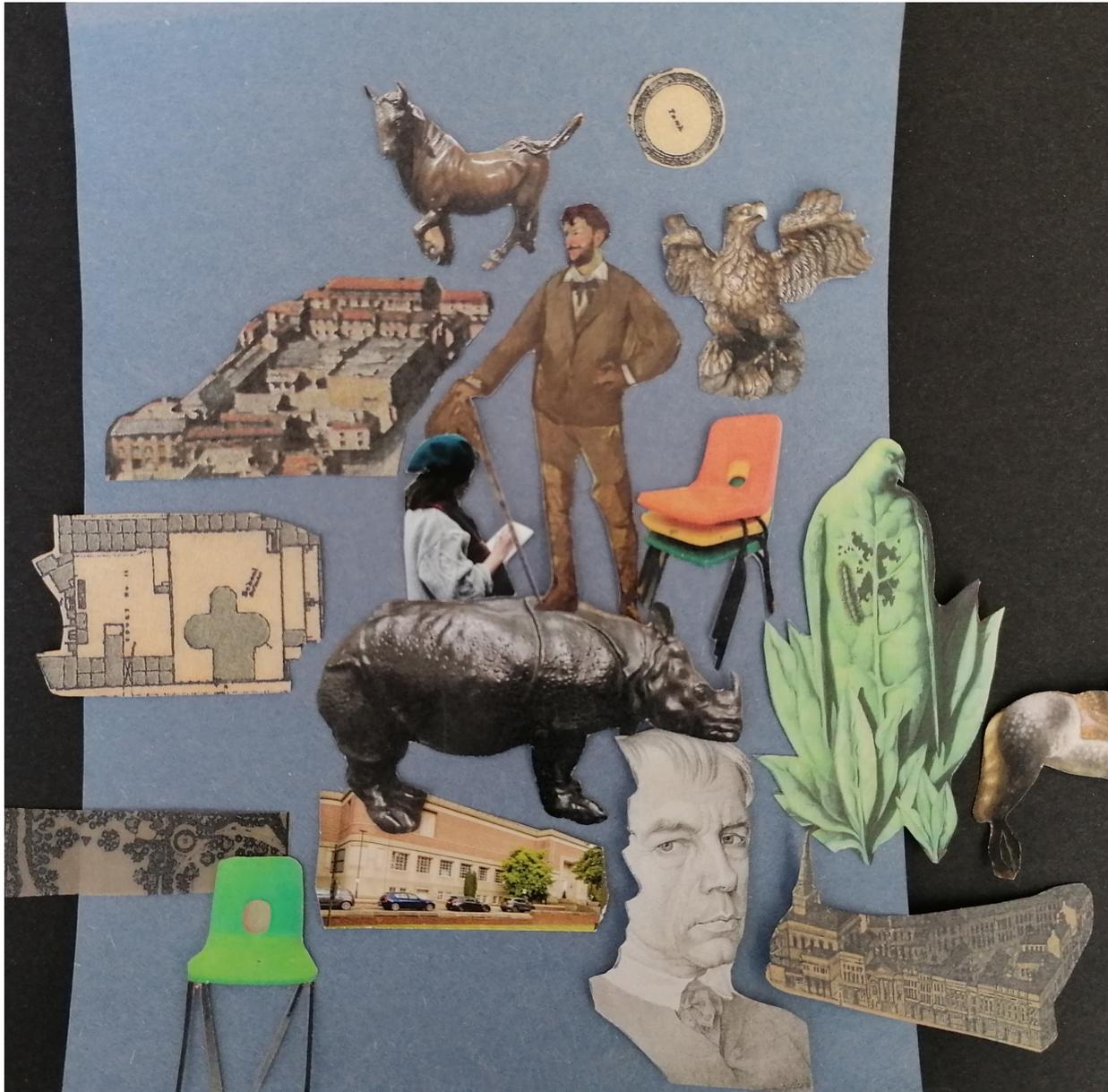
Prepare and cut out the images from the printed sheets that you would like to use. Use the scissors to carefully cut around each object. First try to cut 1cm around the image so that all of the excess paper is removed. Think about what you would like to cut out; is it the whole object or just part of it?

Start to think about what sort of collage/montage you would like to create. Will it develop as you start cutting? Perhaps you could use the images of textures, maps, objects, sculptures and text to create a portrait, object, narrative, or landscape?

Lots of cutting and trimming can be quite taxing on our hands, fingers and arms so have plenty of rest in between while remembering to stretch and wiggle your fingers. You could start with a small montage first so that only a few items will need cutting out.





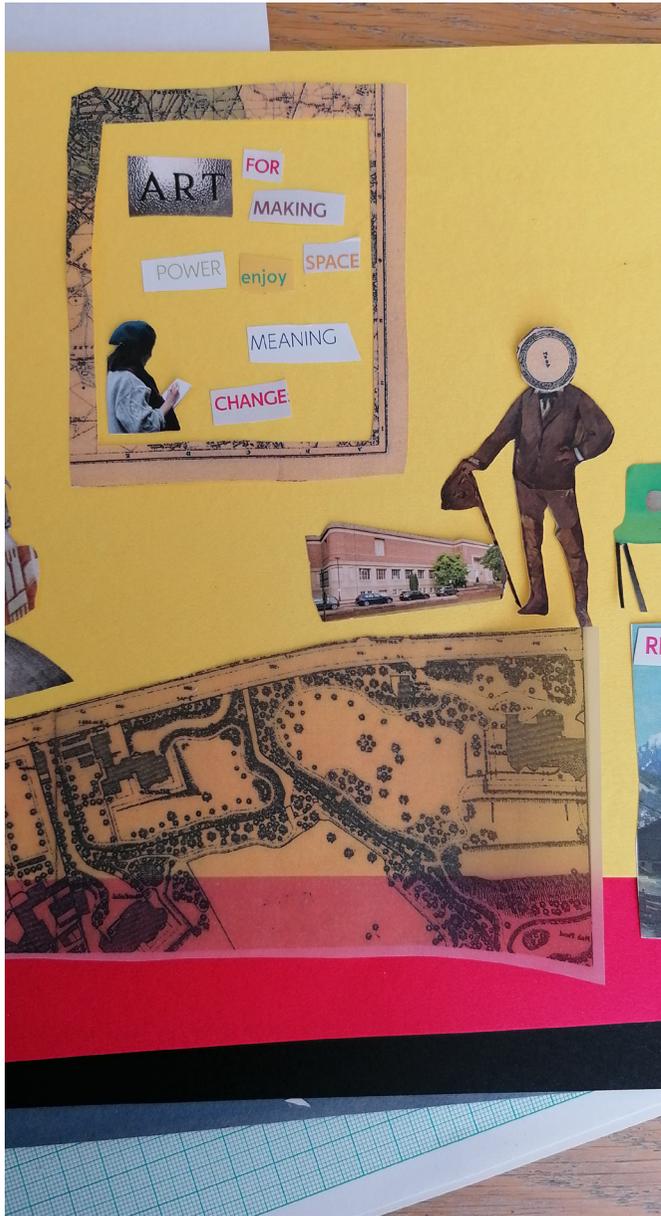


Experimenting with layout and scale

Lay out your cut outs onto coloured or graph paper to see if there are any that you are particularly drawn to. You can cut out pieces of maps and textures and lay these down too. I started by moving my pieces around, over lapping, layering and swapping them.

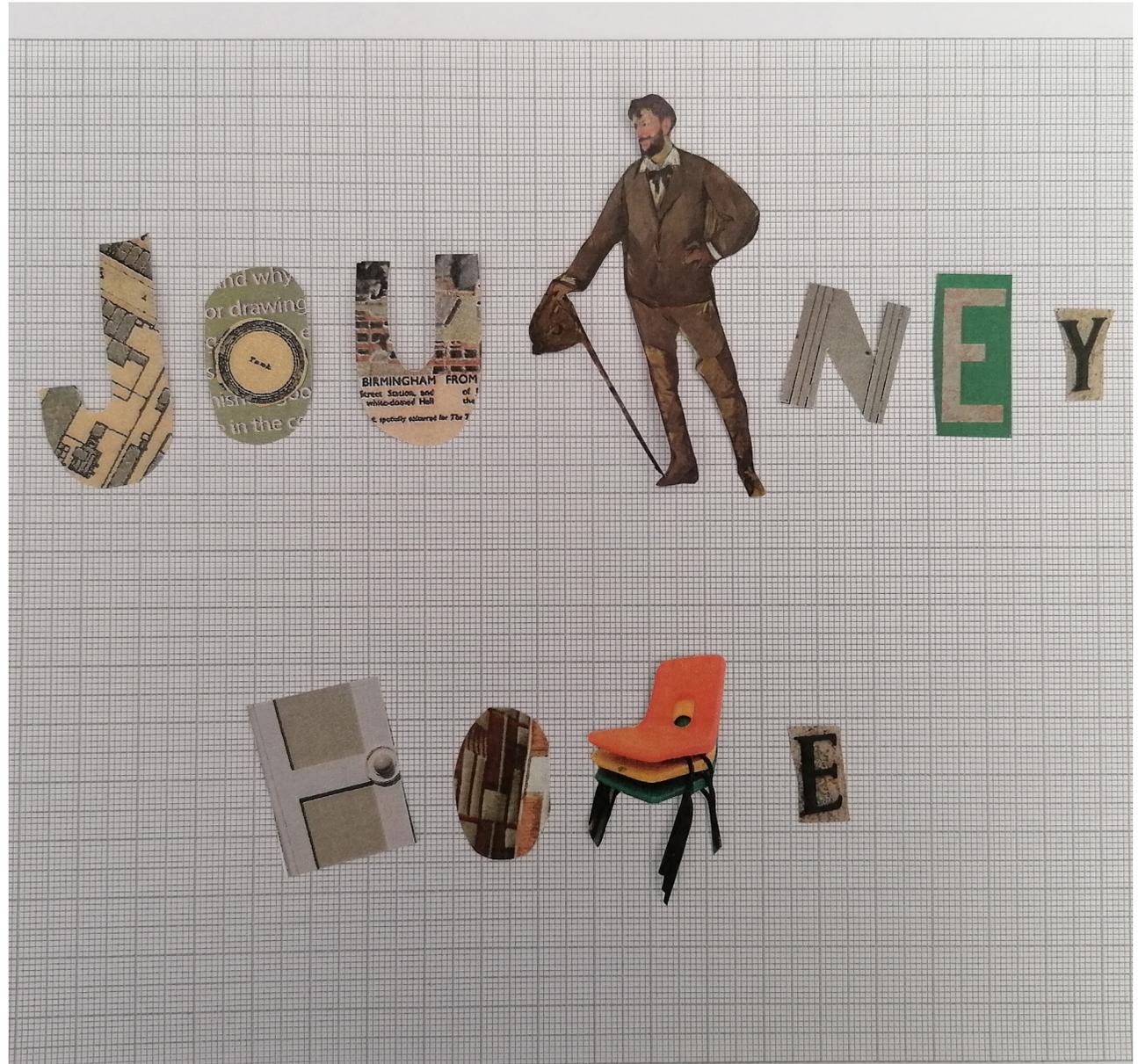
I experimented with scale and placed really small pieces next to larger scale ones, I tried to have fun with my collage by adding a facemask to one of the portraits and placing contrasting objects together. If you want to create more surreal work you could replace features and limbs with objects and parts of maps.

There are many different styles of collage and photomontage, some can look over worked and be very detailed, while others are simple, effective and minimal. Try to find your own style by exploring these concepts.



Create Text

You can use textures and objects to create shapes and lettering. Draw your shape or letter onto the back of the photocopy with pencil and then cut these out. I think a variety of similar sized text from different sources can work well as a slogan, title or piece of political art. You could look at Artist Bob and Roberta Smith for inspiration for this.





Evaluation

Lets take a look at your work; make sure they are stuck down with glue before moving them.

Did you enjoy this process?
Did you find it relaxing?
Could you send a small montage to a friend or family member?

Montage is a bit like working a jigsaw puzzle, it's something you can work on long term and come back to, leaving it set up so you can add to when you feel the need, this may be an interesting way of working?

Some artists use photo montage and collage to make small simple animations. You could try down loading a simple stop frame animation app and before you stick down your montage you could use this app to take photos before slightly moving the pieces and then the app will put it all together into a small animation.

Artist Research:

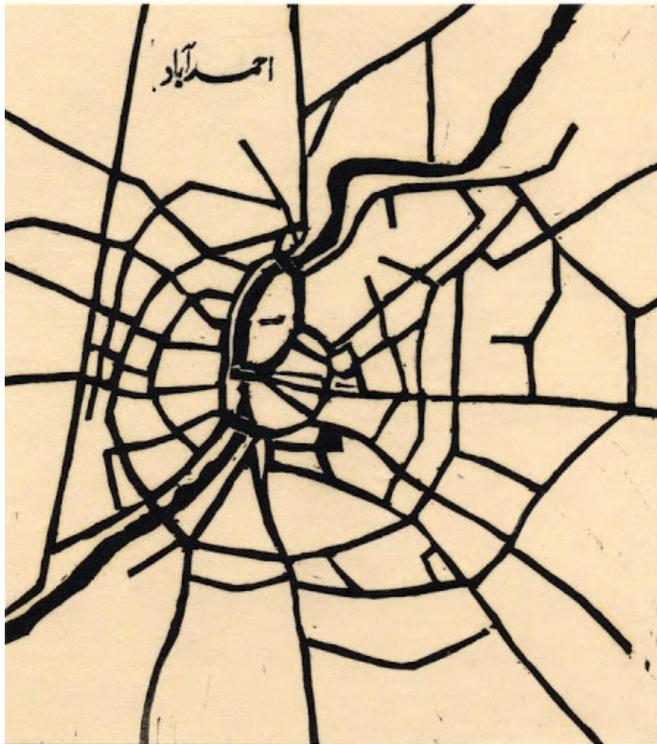
Here are some suggestions of artists who use photomontage or maps in their work:

Hannah Hoch



Artist Research:

Here are some suggestions of artists who use photomontage or maps in their work:



Zarina Hashmi





Thank you for taking part in this Recovery Art workshop.

Thank you for taking part in this Recovery Art online session, we hope you have enjoyed creating photomontages with us at The Barber, and would love it if you could join us again next month.

Our monthly zoom workshop is Monday 28th June, 11am. The link and recorded video will be sent this coming week.

learning@barber.org.uk

We will be continuing with online sessions through Summer 2021.