

File Folders *extraordinaire*

Playing with Mixed Media by Julie Loeschke



Suggested Supplies:

- *Letter-sized file folder or other substrate (i.e. canvas, watercolor papers, gessobord, wood, etc)
- *Gesso, or white or buff-colored acrylic paint
- *Ink pads in your preferred colors
- *Rub-ons (optional)
- *Dabber paints or other acrylic paints
- *Focal Images from PaperWhimsy
- *Brushes to apply gesso/paint

- *Assorted paper ephemera (i.e. old sheet music, old book pages, old maps, old checks, or prints of same)
- *PVA, Tacky, PPA, YES or other adhesive
- *Stencils or Templates
- *Glimmer Mists, assorted colors
- *Rubber Stamps
- *Journaling Pens for details
- *Spray fixative (optional)

PaperWhimsy Images Used:

(Please do use your favorites; below is merely a list of the images I used in my project)

Single 035 PNG or Sheet 298
Old Map 01 JPG
Digi 222

Bovine 01 JPG
Astronomy 02 JPG
Digi 291

Special Note: If you don't have a graphics editing program click [HERE](#) for a tutorial explaining how to lay out and print the PNG and JPG files using Word. Otherwise, images from the [Collage Images](#) category at PaperWhimsy will work wonderfully.

As I'm sure you've noticed, mixed media backgrounds are all the rage! This project will show you how to dabble in and have fun with mixed media art.

I chose to use a file folder as a base for this project, but the technique could easily translate to many other surfaces. How about watercolor paper or wood (a door?). This technique would be great on canvas as a wall piece, or why not on a wall?

Okay, let's get started!

Step 1:



Begin by laying out your papers as desired. You may wish to tear your papers, or leave them whole. I do both and play with the papers to get the look I like.

Attach the papers to the background using your favorite adhesive.

Pay particular attention to the edges. The papers will buckle a bit if you're using an adhesive with a water base; i.e. mediums, PPA, white glue, Mod Podge; but will flatten out as they dry. Allow your layers to dry completely before moving to the next step.





Step 2:



After your background has dried, paint with a thinned layer of gesso (my preference) or white acrylic paint over the layered papers. This creates a more unified background while allowing the images on your papers to show through. Again, the paper will buckle a bit, but will flatten out upon drying.



Step 3:



We'll continue our layering using our "wet" treatments first. Start with a light application of spray mist color such as Glimmer Mist, Glitz Spritz, Moon Shadow Mist, diluted paints in a spray bottle or similar. Continue to build up your colors until you're satisfied with the results. Start slowly as you can always add more. Allow each application to dry before applying another.



Step 4:



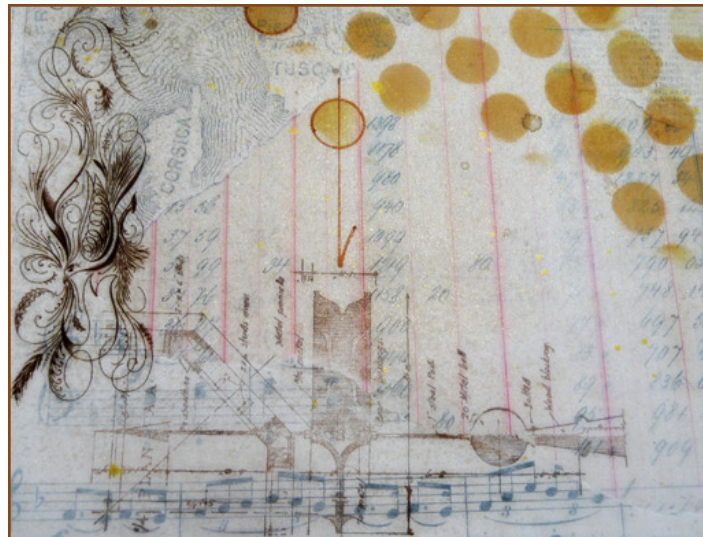
Add some stenciling using either paint or ink. It's a good idea to have your focal images printed and cut out before hand in order to determine their placement in the finished piece and help you decide where to add your stenciling. You don't want to cover up all of your hard work.



Step 5:



Looking at your layout select areas where you might want to apply rub-ons, stamping and drawing for added interest to continue building up your layers. You may also choose to stamp or apply rub-ons on top of your focal images.



Step 6:



Arrange your focal images. I like to finish the edges of these with distress ink or fluid chalk. It makes them "pop". Outlining with pen or pencil works well, too. Consider layering the images to give your piece more depth. Using your favorite adhesive attach your images and allow to dry under a weight (a stack of books makes a good weight). When dry, add any other desired detailing with pens or pastels.



Step 7:



If you wish, spray your finished piece with a sealer to protect it (in particular use a spray sealer if you've added details using pastel pencils or Pan Pastels). You can also choose to use a sealer topcoat such as PPA , Mod Podge or similar for added protection (be sure to spray seal any pastel details before adding PPA, Mod Podge, etc).

Your new **Mixed Media Folder *extraordinaire*** will make a perfect home for your Paper Whimsy printouts. I'd love to see what you make!

I'll see you again in March!

Julie