

# Cande Aguilar

## Inspired Collage



### Behind the Art



Cande Aguilar is a self-taught artist from Brownsville, Texas. His artwork explores a variety of images, textures, and rich colors. By using images from popular culture, his piece "Ni De Aqui Ni De Alla" tells a story of how identity is present in culture.

The materials an artist uses and the way they are used, can tell the viewer a story. We are going to learn how to make a collage, layering different images and colors to tell our own story of self-identity just like Cande Aguilar!

Find more about Cande Aguilar and his artwork here:  
<https://candearart.com/home.html>



## The Ingredients of a Collage

Composition: how the elements of your art are positioned on your paper

Overlap: the placement of some objects over other objects

Backing: the material that all other collage materials are fixed to

Variety: a principle of design, using different elements to create visual interest

Affix: to stick or glue something to something else

BarrioPOP: "neighborhood" pop, taking inspiration from local culture

Media: the materials used by an artist; sometimes referred to as "mixed" media, meaning multiple different materials are used

Transfer: the process of moving an image onto another surface or medium



# Cooking Up Your Collage

## 1. Step one: Gather your materials.

This collage is going to be made from found materials. Go on an art scavenger hunt for your supplies - what can you find? Here are some ideas to get your scavenger hunting ideas flowing:

- Crayons/markers/colored pencils/pens/pencils
- Cardboard
- Newspaper/magazines/coloring pages
- Glue
- Scissors

**Remember:** A collage has a "backing", the piece of paper, cardboard, or poster board that all the little cut up images and artworks are affixed (glued) to. So pick objects that you don't mind cutting up and gluing to something!

## 2. Step Two: Cut your materials.

Now that you've got all your materials, think about how they're all going to fit on your backing. What kind of story are you trying to tell with your materials? How do different cutting techniques change the texture of your materials? You might want to try:

- Ripping or tearing your paper materials
- Cutting geometric shapes, like triangles or squares, to create patterns
- Folding a paper and cutting it randomly to see what unique shapes it creates

Don't worry if you can't cut the edge of an image exactly! By cutting in different, sporadic ways, you create variety. It doesn't have to be perfect, because there is no wrong or right way to do this.

## 3. Step Three: Plan your composition.

Composition refers to how the elements of your art are positioned on your paper. How are the different elements of "*Ni De Aqui Ni De Alla*" positioned and what story does that positioning create? What might it mean that the head of the person riding the horse is covered by text? Now think about the images you have gathered. Where do you want your pieces placed, and what things do you want covered or shown? Here's a good way to start thinking about this:

- Begin by positioning your **unglued** images that you've already cut on your backing. Consider how it looks unglued.
- Take a picture of your **unglued** arrangement, and then rearrange the pieces into an entirely new composition.
- Take another picture and repeat the process until you feel you've got enough ideas flowing to settle on a glued arrangement. Then, take a look back at your photos - which one looks the best to you?
- Once you've decided, arrange your pieces and prepare to start gluing.

**Keep in mind:** With a collage, your images are going to overlap, meaning some images might cover some other images! You can have as many layers of overlapping images you want, or as little. This is your artwork!

#### 4. Step Four: Glue your arrangement.

Depending on the materials you're using, you may need to use different types of glue. Materials like construction paper, magazine, or newspaper can be glued using Elmer's Glue, but some materials might need modge podge or a stronger adhesive.

- Remember those layers! You can glue a layer and wait for it to dry before continuing on to the next layer.

Here is a resource for different kinds of fixatives to use with different kinds of materials: <https://www.thisisthat.com/>

#### 5. Step Five: Reflect back on your created artwork.

Excellent job on creating your collage! Now it's time to reflect on the flavors of your art.



## Transcript

**Hannah:** Hi everyone, my name is Hannah!

**Sasha:** And I'm Sasha!

**Amanda:** Hi, I'm Amanda Rogers and we are all students at the University of Texas Austin. Today we are going to talk about the exhibition that the Visual Art Center has put together called "Between Two Worlds" that focus on artists who grew up in border towns and how those experiences have shaped their identity. We are going to discuss Cande Aguilar's artwork, "Ni

de Aqui Ni de Alla" from the "Between Two Worlds" exhibit, and we are going to create our own inspired collage. We are going to break down all of the layers and techniques that you need to create this collage so let's get started!

**A:** Before we get started on our artwork inspired by "Ni de Aqui Ni de Alla", it is important that we take a look at the piece. "Ni de Aqui Ni de Alla" directly translates to "neither from her nor from there" in English. Feel free to pause or rewind the video to take a closer look.

**H:** Now that you have looked at the work closely, what materials do you think were used? What things jump out at you? What objects and colors do you connect with the most?

**H:** Cande Aguilar is a self-taught artist from Brownville, Texas. His artwork explores a variety of images, colors, and textures. By using images from popular culture, his piece "Ni de Aqui Ni de Alla" tells a story of how identity is present in our culture.

**A:** His artwork takes inspiration from his environment, derived from colorful observations from his local area. For this reason, he defines his unique style as BarrioPOP, meaning neighborhood pop. As an Austinite, I might take inspiration from this mural because it is a pop symbol from my environment that reminds me of my identity as a citizen of Austin. What is an example of BarrioPOP from your environment?

**H:** Before we create our collage though, we have to gather our media. Media is the materials and tools that the artist uses to create the work of art. Since you're the artist today, you are going to want to gather your markers, images, and cutouts. Today I have my markers, colored pencils, and my image and were going to be putting that on our surface. But remember, only use cutouts that you are okay with gluing down permanently, because you won't be able to get them back later.

**S:** Let's look at some possible materials before you go on your art scavenger hunt for media. Crayons, markers, colored pencils, pens, cardboard, newspaper, magazines, coloring book pages, glue, scissors, stickers, stamps, decorative tape, string, and exacto knives are just some of the things you can find on your scavenger hunt. As you can see, each one of us were able to find different types of media. This is perfectly okay. The materials and how they are used, tell us, the viewer, a story. Now let's look at how to make a collage. Through layering different materials, we can create a story of self-identity the same way as Cande Aguilar.

**A:** Before you glue anything, it is a good idea to have an understanding of how collages work. Collages involve lots of overlap. Overlap means that one image may cover a piece of another image. I have many different kinds of media that I want to put together for this collage, and I need to think about how they will come together on the piece and overlap so that it looks visually appealing. Composition is how the media is arranged on the paper. So, I might play around with all my pieces and how they fit together or different kinds of compositions before gluing them. For other media with textures that do not agree with Elmer's Glue, consider using a stronger glue. A helpful resource to determine this is the website, [thistothat.com](http://thistothat.com), links to this website can be found in the description below.

**S:** A collage is made by gluing different materials on to a backing. A backing is something like cardboard or paper that you glue your materials to. Another fancy term for this is affix, meaning gluing one thing to something else. Some objects like paper, can be affixed with a simple PVA glue or liquid Elmer's glue. The best way to ensure that your media stays fixed to your backing is to glue all of the corners and edges of your media. However, be careful, too much glue and it won't stick either.

**H:** Now that we have learned how to overlap our images and materials, it is time to start adding in our drawings and writing. To add this to your collage, you can use crayons, markers, and colored pencils to draw shapes and write your name. If you are using magazine images, the crayons and markers you draw on top can react differently compared to our paper and cardboard. The crayons may not be as bright and may appear waxy. When you use markers, the marker's ink can be splotchy and smear if ink has not dried. For bright and bold drawings, try using a sharpie marker and remember, sharpie is permanent and can stain clothing so you may need parental supervision. Another way to add color to your collage is to take a sheet of paper and scribble on any colors with crayons and markers, then cut them out into different shapes. After you have arranged them to your liking, you can glue them down. Remember, there is no right or wrong way to do this and you can add as much or as little as you want. There are no mistakes!

**S:** As you can see, each one of ours turned out differently! Please look in the description below for more information if you are curious about Cande Aguilar or the VAC "Between Two Worlds". Also consider sharing your art with us on Instagram with the hashtag #between2worldsvac. Thanks for spending time with us and we hope you enjoyed learning about making a collage.