

Create a collage in the style of Eileen Agar

## Meet the Artist: Eileen Agar

### Who was she?

Eileen Agar was a British artist who loved to use her imagination to create art. She's most famous for making collages — artwork made by sticking different materials and pictures together to make something new and magical!

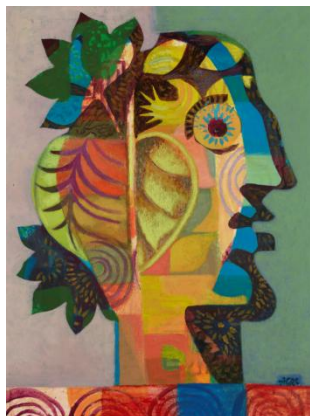
### What kind of art did she make?

She used **photos**, **fabrics**, **shells**, **feathers**, and even things she found on the beach! Eileen didn't always follow rules — she let her **dreams and daydreams** inspire her art. She was part of a group of artists called the **Surrealists**, who believed in making art from the world of dreams and the imagination.

### What's special about her 'collage heads'?

Eileen created heads filled with strange and beautiful things, like sea creatures, leaves, and patterns. Her art makes you want to look closer and think about what stories it might be telling!

Eileen painted different heads, such as these, *The Forester*, and *The Gardener*, implying that all they had in their heads were ideas about their jobs!



She also enjoyed using collage to create. Today we're going to use collage to make a Collage head, along the lines of this one




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## **Step 1: Collect Your Materials**

- Find a piece of **plain paper** – this will be your background.
- Get some **magazines, old books, or coloured paper** you can cut up.
- Look for **interesting pictures**: animals, plants, patterns, sea creatures – anything that catches your eye!
- You'll also need **scissors** and a **glue stick**.



 **Tip:** Don't worry about making it perfect – quirky and imaginative is what we want!

## **Step 2: Build Your Background**

Now it's time to start your collage head by creating the background

### **1. Cut out background shapes or images**

- Look for pages or pictures with **colours, textures, or patterns** that you like
- Think about nature, sea creatures, plants, or anything that feels magical or strange!

### **2. Arrange your pieces**


- Place them on your paper, overlapping them slightly
- Make sure they fill most of the middle of your page – this will be where your collage head appears later

### **3. Stick them down**

- Once you're happy with how it looks, **glue the pieces down** one by one
- Smooth them gently with your hand so they lie flat

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 **Tip:** You don't need to stay inside any shape yet – just fill your paper with a beautiful collage background.

### **Step 3: Add Your Face Shape**

Now you'll build your collage head right on top of your beautiful background. We'll make the face **facing to the right**, just like in Eileen Agar's work.

#### **1. Make a head shape template**

- On a new piece of paper, draw the **side view of a head** looking to the **right**
- You can keep it simple: forehead, nose, lips, chin, and neck
- Ask an adult to help if you need!

#### **2. Cut out the head shape**

- Carefully cut along your outline
- **Stick it down** - once you've chosen the perfect spot, glue the head shape **onto the background**, so it frames the patterns like a portrait!



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 Tip: Try to show interesting textures or pictures where the brain, eyes, or mouth would be!

## **Step 4: Decorate the Head**

Now it's time to **bring your collage head to life!** In this step, we'll add fun details on top of the face shape to give it personality and style, just like Eileen Agar loved to do.

### **1. Choose decoration pieces**

- Look through your magazine scraps or coloured papers for textures or shapes you can use
- Try cutting out things like:
  - **Hats or crowns**
  - **Leaves, shells, or feathers**
  - **Jewellery, sunglasses, or hair shapes**
  - **Abstract shapes or swirls**

### **2. Arrange and layer them**


- Place your chosen pieces **on top of the head silhouette**
- Try different arrangements — you could make your head look dreamy, wild, or regal!

### **3. Glue them down**

- Once you're happy with your design, glue everything in place carefully
- Let it dry flat so the pieces don't curl

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 **Tip:** Try mixing nature with fashion — that's something Eileen Agar loved doing!

### **Step 5: Add the Finishing Touches**

You're nearly done! Now we'll complete your collage head with final details to make it truly stand out and feel complete.

#### **1. Add extra patterns or textures**

- Use any leftover collage scraps to add tiny details: earrings, spots, swirls, or shapes around the head
- You can also draw a few lines or patterns on top if you want to highlight areas

#### **2. Create a background frame (optional)**

- You might want to add a simple border or a shape behind the head to help it pop
- You could cut out coloured paper or draw around the shape with soft lines

#### **3. Check for loose edges**

- Gently press down any edges that are lifting and smooth them with your hand

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## **Extra Activities to Try:**

### **1. Make a Collage Creature**

Use magazine cut-outs to create a new creature — a mix between a fish, a plant, and a bird!

### **2. Hat Designer Challenge**

Eileen Agar loved decorating heads — can you design the wildest hat ever using cut paper?

### **3. Find and Frame**

Cut out a frame shape (circle, star, or square), and use it to explore a magazine page. What happens when you look at just one little part?

### **4. Texture Hunt**

Find textured papers and materials (foil, tissue, bubble wrap prints). Use them to create your own abstract collage.

### **5. Dream Drawing**

Close your eyes and think of a dream or a daydream. Draw or collage what you saw in your imagination — no rules, just creativity!