

# SLICED & DICED – Collage Poetry Workshop

by Diane Curran



## Tools required:

Paper/cardboard for background

Double-sided tape/Glue

Words – sourced from magazines, newspapers etc.

**WARNING:** Collage poetry can be quite messy, and requires space. Collage poetry can also be addictive.

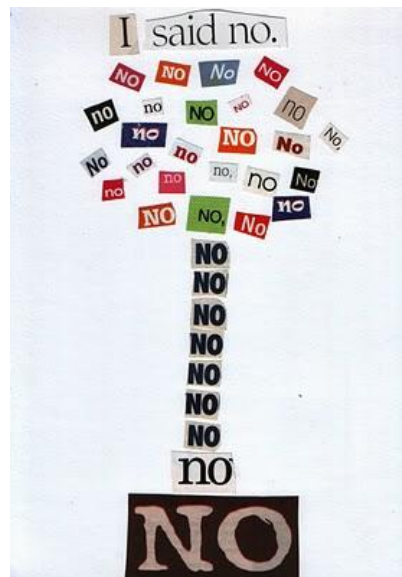
There are a couple of different approaches to collage poetry and these can be swapped depending on your mood or aim in creating a collage poem.

## 1. FOUND POEM

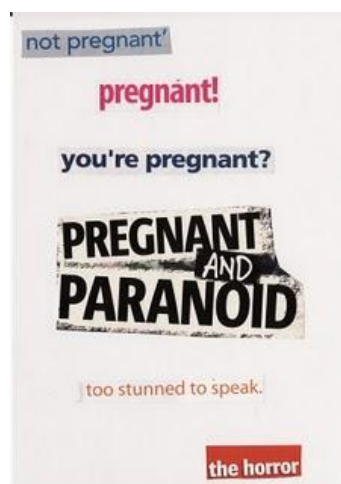
- ✚ create a poem based on the words available to you
- ✚ scatter the words over the table, and allow the poem to emerge from the words.
- ✚ Consider the visual layout of the poem
- ✚ Collage poetry is not just about the text but about how the poem looks on the page.

## 2. THEMATIC

- ✚ Collect words along a similar theme and then use to create a poem.
- ✚ E.g 'I said No' – variations of the word 'no' were collected for weeks before the poem was created.



- ✚ Pregnant and paranoid just emerged when the word 'pregnant' kept showing up in my word collection.



### 3. VISUAL PARAMETERS

- ✚ Construct your poem according to set visual parameters e.g
- ✚ The poem must be all black text.
- ✚ All red text.

### 4. OTHER PARAMETERS

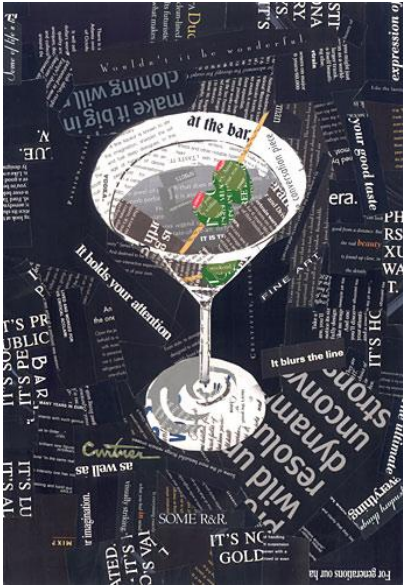
- ✚ Use text from only one source e.g one magazine, a pamphlet, a brochure.

## TECHNIQUE

- ✚ Have several poems on the go at the same time. If word doesn't fit one poem, it may fit another.
- ✚ Play with the word order.
- ✚ Look for unusual word combinations
- ✚ Rearrange the layout a couple of times before you start committing the word to the background.
- ✚ Use good, strong, visual text
- ✚ Think about how it will reproduce if you photocopy it.
- ✚ Consider including images as part of your poem.



Collage source: <http://desireeo.com/>



<http://www.curtnerart.com/> - Richard Curtner creates visuals using text.

## ONLINE REFERENCES

<http://languageisavirus.com>

<http://collagepoetry.com>

<http://collagepoet.blogspot.com>

My collage poetry: <http://chickollage.blogspot.com>

and some collage poem-making in action:

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ztl\\_o\\_CjHE4&NR=1](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ztl_o_CjHE4&NR=1)

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