

The New
Art Gallery
Walsall

Community Collage. *by Sam Mace*

Create a colourful collage to
celebrate your community.



Materials:

Scissors
Glue
Photographs
Old magazines, books or printed
internet images
Coloured and/or patterned papers



Inspired by A Sense of Black Community, Walsall 60s-70s By Claudette Chambers

This artwork was made in 2005 and hung in the Window box at the Gallery during the Back to Black exhibition. It celebrates the experience of the Windrush generation who settled in Walsall in the 1960s and 1970s.

The artist Claudette Chambers invited Walsall's African Caribbean community to share their family photographs with her to make the artwork. Maybe you know some of the people in the picture? Working together to make art is called 'co-creation'.



Gather some photographs from people in your community who you would like to co- create your collage with. Ask about history of the photographs and the people involved.

Top tip! Make sure you ask permission to use the photographs. Make photocopies of the photographs or scan and print them out rather than use the originals.

Cut out the people or leave the photographs whole.

The African Caribbean community in Walsall in the 1960s-70s took pride in the front room as a place to keep treasured possessions, photographs and spend special occasions with friends and family.

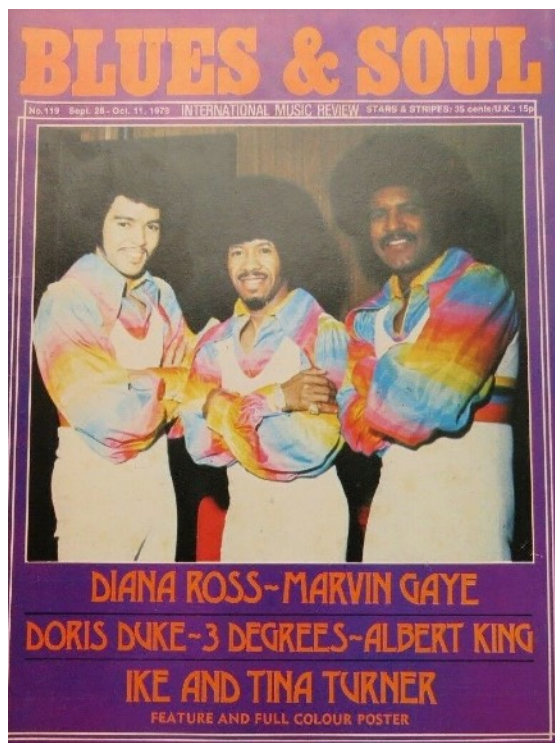


Can you see what is in Claudette's collage that may be found there?

Vinyl records and a radiogram.



Fashion and music magazines



1970s fashion: Flares and platform shoes.



The best furniture



*What places and what objects tell the story of you and your community?
Is it a room in the home that is special?*

Look in magazines for pictures to use in your collage. Take photos of things or look on the internet. Print them and cut them out. Ask your collage co-creators to help collect images.

*Be playful! Objects and people do not have to be the right size (to scale).
Your collage can be fun and abstract.*



Is there a place you go to outside the home together? An allotment, club or park for example? If so, include it in your collage.



'A Sense of Black Community' has a colourful background and flower patterns.

Is there a motif that represents your community? Think about what colours and shapes would look effective.



Try different combinations of coloured paper for the background. Cut out your shapes.

You do not have to draw the shapes first, see if you can make the shapes by cutting with scissors.

Now that you have your people, objects, place and colourful paper patterns you are ready to make the final piece. Test out different arrangements together.





Try positioning your paper landscape or portrait.

You don't have to use all of your pictures. Make it 'busy' with lots of images or more simple with lots of space. It's up to you!

Take a photograph of your experiments to compare and help you decide on a final composition. See what everybody thinks and once you are happy glue the pieces down.



Ta-da! Step back and appreciate what you have achieved together!

These children's workshops have been created by our team of artist-educators and are available as films or downloadable worksheets on our website: www.thenewartgallerywalsall.org.uk/families-kids/childrens-online-digital-activities