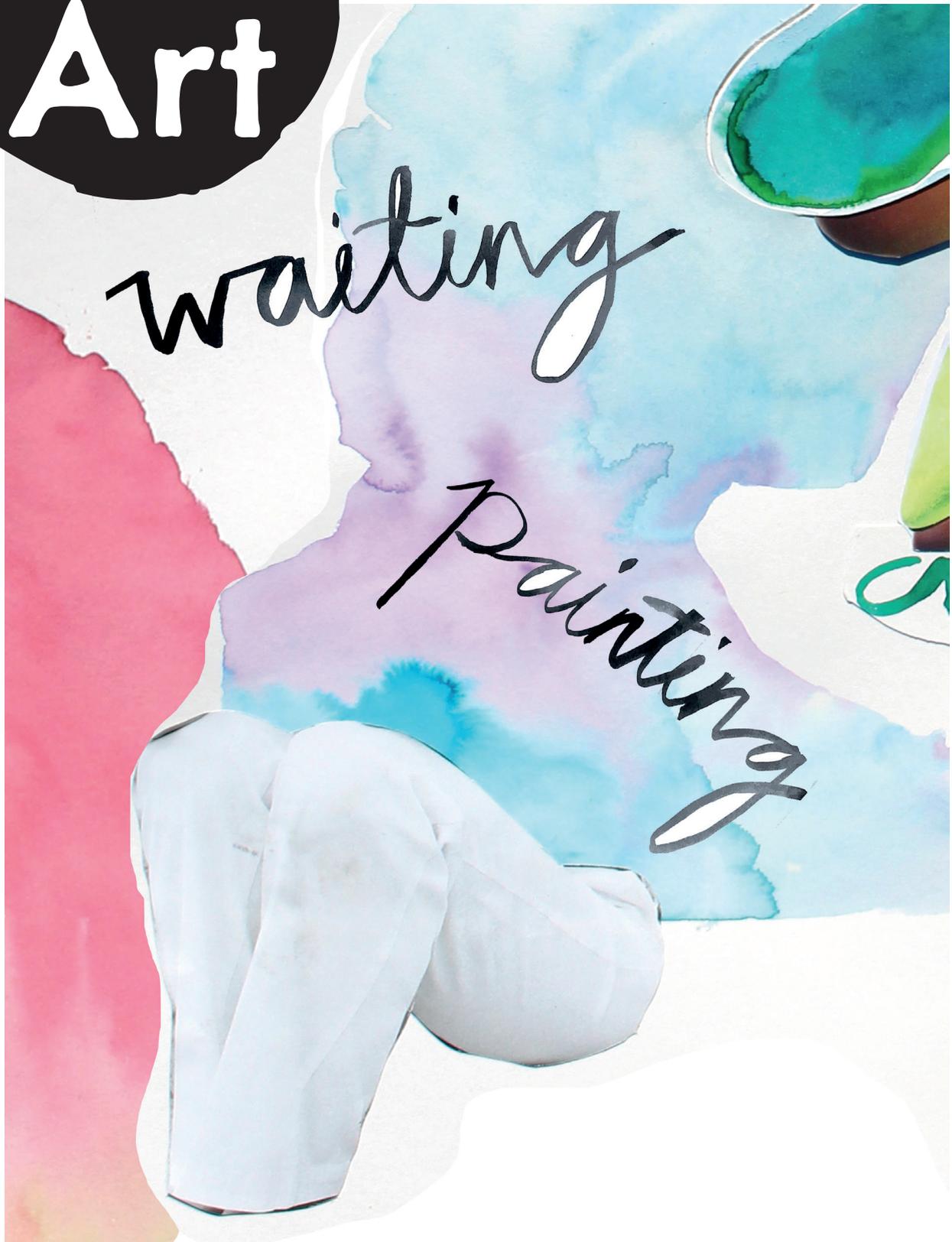


DIY Art

Edinburgh Art Festival invites
you to get creative at home



Home Creativity Kit by Alexa Hare

WAITING PAINTING by Alexa Hare

What you will need

- Watercolour or acrylic paint set
- Medium and small paint brushes
- Jar with water
- White cartridge paper
- Glue stick
- Scissors
- Magazines or old picture books
- Pencil

I use this process at home on the kitchen table when I'm waiting; waiting for motivation, waiting for a lover, waiting for a pandemic to end, waiting for better internet, waiting to give birth, waiting to be let go, waiting for the washing machine to stop. I've developed this way of working using cut out text and image and paint to organise my thoughts. I usually feel unburdened and more positive afterwards. This is just a guide – take it where you want it to go and make it yours. – Alexa Hare

The **WAITING PAINTING** art pack asks you to slow down and use the act of listening as a starting point for creating your own visual statements and *melly** poetry. Combining writing, paint and collage, this process will help you get lost in making, ordering your thoughts in a visual way to create a series of collages.

**Melly* is a term that Alexa uses to describe her ethos. For her it has connotations of how art and the creative process can help you reach different states of consciousness, helping you to relax, have fun and disconnect from life's stresses.

Alexa's pack is aimed towards those aged 16+ but younger people may also enjoy this activity.

When you have made your artworks, we'd love to include them in an online exhibition on our community engagement blog. Share your creations by emailing images to learning@edinburghartfestival.com, and look for ideas and inspiration at edartfestcommunityengagement.com

1. Throughout your day, listen. Listen to the radio, listen to your family or friends, listen to yourself. Write down any words or phrases that sound good to you and make a list on your phone or a piece of paper. They might be funny, sad, political or *melly*. I like to log arguments between my husband and I, list song lyrics, pick out words from news I hear on the radio or copy out baking recipes.

2. Get some paint – I like watercolours or my kids' paint sets, but you could use watered down acrylic or paint pens. Sit down, slow down. Wet your paintbrush by dipping into the jar of water and select which colour to start with. Paint out your words and phrases onto cartridge paper. Paint the words nice and big, and use different colours for different words. When changing colour, use the water to clean your brush and dab it on some kitchen towel or some old newspaper to make sure its clean. Fill a few pages with these words. Don't think about them as words, think about them as shapes. You can use my words if you are a bit stuck...

3. Cut out your words (shapes) with scissors (if you have a craft knife and board even better but please use with caution). Follow the outlines of your words while cutting with your chosen tool. Keep the negative space left after cutting them out – this will be used later as a stencil for painting. Now you should have a pile of cut-out words or letters and their negative space stencils.

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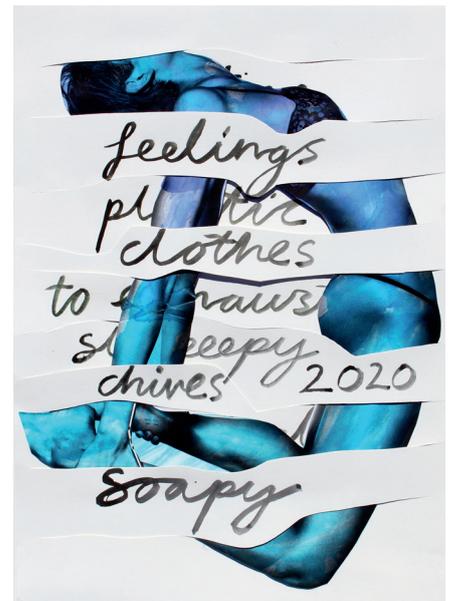
4. You will need some other imagery to mix it up a bit, so your *WAITING PAINTING* is not only text based. Look through an old magazine or an old book (I prefer old books). Cut out your chosen images with the remaining pages positioned underneath. If using a craft knife, it will also cut out the same shape on the page below. If using scissors, use a pencil to make an outline of the shape you have cut out on the page below to repeat the cut-out. Using this repeat cut-out technique brings an element of chance, which I really like. Now you should have a pile of cut-out images, and their negative space stencils.



5. Use the negative space left from your image and words as painting stencils to build up backgrounds. This can be a bit tricky, so press down the edges of the stencil with your fingers and paint in that negative space. Take your time, it's good to slow down. Build up layers using your stencils. Work on 3 or 4 collage paintings at the same time. This will help you to work in a loose fashion, allowing you to experiment and not get too precious whilst generating your compositions.



6. Now you have a few built-up painted backgrounds made from your stencils. Start placing your cut-out images and words on top of the backgrounds. Move everything around trying different variations and compositions. I am borrowing and bending this cut-up technique from writer and artist William Burroughs and artist Brion Gysin, who popularised the technique in the 50s and 60s and in turn influenced Bowie, Jay-Z and Nirvana. Try to make some *melty* poetry out of the words. I seem to mix imagery and text that are contrasting in meaning. The beauty of collage is that you don't have to stick anything down until you are quite sure it looks good. Try to work on 3 or 4 at the same time – explore the balance of caring and not caring – to create your series of *WAITING PAINTING* collages.



DIY Art is a series of activity packs from Edinburgh Art Festival and selected artists, inviting you to get creative at home. The instructional creativity kits give insight into an artist's practice, showing how you can use their processes and techniques to create your own unique artwork.

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Edinburgh Art Festival, founded in 2004, is the platform for the visual arts at the heart of Edinburgh's August festivals, bringing together the capital's leading galleries, museums, production facilities and artist-run spaces in a city-wide celebration of the very best in visual art. The festival features leading international and UK artists alongside the best emerging talent, major survey exhibitions of historic figures, and a special programme of newly commissioned artworks that respond to public and historic sites in the city. The vast majority of the festival is free to attend.

Edinburgh Art Festival Community Engagement runs a year-round programme of learning and engagement activities building long-term relationships with partner organisations, community groups and schools. Through our bespoke tours, workshops and projects we introduce and inspire people to get creative, removing barriers and broadening access to visual art and our festival programme.

edinburghartfestival.com | [@EdArtFest](https://twitter.com/EdArtFest) | edartfestcommunityengagement.com

Alexa Hare is an artist based in Edinburgh. Using collage techniques such as cut-up and digital mashups, Alexa makes works drawn from images found in books, magazines and film. As well as this, performance, script writing, singing and music also play a role in her practice. She also collaborates with artist Francesca Nobilucci, under the name Yokollection. Alexa teaches art workshops and has worked with Artlink, Edinburgh Sculpture Workshop and the National Galleries of Scotland.

www.fromthestudio.art/artists/alexa-hare

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