

33 ART RESOURCES

I can't live without

A woman with blonde hair and glasses is holding a large bundle of paintbrushes in front of her face. She is wearing a blue and white patterned cardigan over a striped shirt. The background is a blurred indoor setting, possibly an art studio or library.

Catherine Rains
Mixed Media Collage Artist

These 33 art resources inspire and sustain my art practice on a daily basis. I hope you have fun exploring some new possibilities for your artist toolbox.



TOOLS & MARK MAKERS

1 Liquitex Modeling Paste

- Using this with stencils and a palette knife on tissue paper creates the most amazing textures to add to collage, often the finishing touch.

2 Scissors

- My favorites of the moment!

3 X-acto Knife #11 blade

- Although I use full-size scissors for most paper cutting, I also use this knife to cut very detailed small spaces.
- Buy 100 blades at a time if you use this tool all the time like I do.

4 Tracing Wheel

- Dip wheel in paint and move wheel across paper to create series of small dots close together. No one will know how you made such a precise, repetitive mark.



5 Clear & Black & White Checkers Deli Paper

- Used to create transparent collage papers with paint.

6 Tissue Paper

- Used to create both image transfers and collage papers, this is the most versatile and essential item in my toolbox.

7 Black and White pens

- Posca, Pitt, Gelly Roll and Staedler brands are all great, the smaller the tip the better!

8 Princeton Catalyst Wedge

- Makes unusual scrape marks when dragged across wet paint, AND takes wrinkles out of paper when gluing all types of paper on substrate. Double win!

9 Stabilo All Black Pencil

- Essential water soluble, mark making tool. Makes fabulous dark lines when water is added.

10 Circle Paper Hole Punches

- Used all the time in my collages!

11 Princeton Paint Brushes

- All time favorite brushes, especially Filberts and Flats, but I love them all.



12 Fine Liners - fill with favorite paint

- Paint bottles with fine tip
- Needle squeeze bottle

13 Fixatives for water soluble media

- SpectraFix is environmentally friendly, good for indoor use. However doesn't consistently work on all media.
- Krylon Workable Fixatif prevents artwork from smudging better than SpectraFix, BUT is flammable and smells harsh.

SUBSTRATES

(what I create on)

14 Blick Studio Wood Panel

- Cradled boards, 7/8", 1.5" or 2.5" thick, so no need for a frame.

15 Strathmore Mixed Media Paper

- Most of my collages are created on this paper. Apply gesso to both sides.

16 Dylusions Flip Journal

- What I used to create some of "Spaciousness" collection, because very sturdy pages that hold up to mixed media.



17 Mini Sketchbook, 4.5"x4.5"

- Used to create my 100-day project

18 4" Bull Paper Clips

- Used to hold Mini Sketchbook open

GLUE

19 Liquitex Fluid Matte & Gel Mediums

- First one is for gluing thinner papers, and second is one the thicker ones.
- Dispense using plastic condiment bottles for faster gluing.

MAGAZINES

- 20 • Look for magazines that have thick pages with rich colors and intriguing images.
- Current faves include Vogue, Elle, Elle Decor, Martha Stewart Living, Real Simple, Veranda, Somerset Studio, Conde Nast Traveler and House Beautiful.

PAINT

21 Nova Acrylic Paint

- Use just 3 primaries, plus black & white to create collage papers that easily harmonize.



22 Utrecht Acrylic Gesso

- Used for both priming substrates and as white paint.

PAINT REMOVAL & CLEAN UP ———

23 Murphy Oil Cleaning Spray, Hand Sanitizer, & Baby Wipes

- All three will “erase” dried acrylic paint on art, revealing paint layers underneath and correcting mistakes.

24 Murphy Oil Soap - Original

- Cleans brushes that appear ruined with dried acrylic paint. Soak brushes in Murphy Oil overnight & rinse with water - pure magic!

PAINT STORAGE ———

25 Glass jars - 2 & 4 oz with screw lids

- After creating a custom color, extra paint can be stored in these well-sealed jars so paint won't dry out.

26 Condiment Bottles

- Used to dispense medium and Nova paint



VIDEO LIGHTING

27 Canvas Lamp

- Allows you to clip a smart phone on top of the lamp, which makes creating an art video super simple. How did I live without this essential studio tool for so long!?
 - Use code CAT10 for 10% discount.

28 Desktop Studio Light

- 4 of these light all sides of my studio table

FINISHING

29 Golden Archival Spray Varnish UVLS - Satin or Matte

- Spray onto mixed media with lots of texture as a final layer to protect artwork where cannot use paint-on varnish

30 Golden Polymer Varnish - Satin or Matte

- Favorite brush-on varnish to provide UV protection

31 Dorland's Wax Medium

- Permanently seals artwork and sketchbooks



FRAMES

32 [Canvasplace.com](https://www.canvasplace.com)

- Well priced frames for both Blick cradled boards and wood boards cut at hardware store
- Shipping is high so I buy as much as possible at one time, bringing down the cost per frame cost

33 [Acrylic Picture Frame, 4"x4"](#)

- Double sided magnetic frame

Thank you for following my wild adventure as a full-time artist.

I'm truly honored to have you along for the ride.

Please note: Some of these supplies have affiliate links, without costing you anything more.

Visit me online at [CatherineRains.com](https://www.CatherineRains.com)

I would also be delighted to connect with you on [Instagram](#).