



# Ephemera Becomes Art

**In-person workshop with Lily Yee-Sloan**

**Date:** Saturday, November 16, 2024

**Time:** 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

**Venue:** St. John United Church, 195 East 38th Street, Hamilton ON

**Cost:** Members \$60, non-members \$70, limited to 18 participants

## Workshop Description

**Ephemera** are items that are not originally designed to be retained or preserved but become a 'collection', oftentimes by default. The term is derived from the Greek *ephēmeros* which means 'lasting only a day'.



Are you reluctant to part with art materials that bring joy—things that could have been discarded—but were not? Nevertheless, there they are, taking up space.

Maybe the scraps in your collection have the potential to be converted into something else—something beautiful. Something that brings renewed joy.

Gather your stuff for a conversion experience. Let's chase magic. Craft your beloved offcuts into oddly-shaped cards to slip into funky envelopes. Curate a 'scrap' book or broadside of much-loved snippets. Collage bits and bobs to invent a whole. Weave a pattern from paper threads. Your lettering practice? It could have an out-of-drawer experience in a finished composition!



**Not junk!** I have intentionally avoided the terms 'junk' and 'recycling'—that's a different mindset. Instead, you are asserting the value of your ephemera—after all, you kept them for a reason. You are taking treasured raw materials and using your art practice to turn them into something worthy of your creativity. Ephemera becomes art!

**Communal Scrap Heap.** Give and take. Contribute to the class communal Scrap Heap. While you're there, pick up a treasure for the masterpiece you're designing.

**Materials Fee.** TBA (collected in class) for various working papers for templates and projects.

**Register.** Spend a carefree day playing. Bring your stash. Turn your ephemera into art!



## Supply List

This list is long, but it provides details so you pack only what you need. Most important—bring what you love!

### Basic essentials

- Gather images to feature in a book or broadside. Choose images you love that form a ‘collection’. They could be 2 x 3.5” up to 3.5 x 5” (square, rectangular, or round). In class you’ll use viewfinders to crop. For example, identify random letters from a practice sheet, or marks using experimental tools, or words from a discarded project, or drawings, or gelli print patterns, etc. Choose graphics with a commonality that unites them in a ‘collection’.
- 3 to 4 sheets of paper stock—card weight—any colour, whole sheets or significantly-sized leftovers,
  - e.g., Canson Mi-Tientes, card stock. You’ll be cutting these down.
- 3 to 4 sheets of paper stock—text weight—any colour, whole sheets or significantly-sized leftovers. You’ll be cutting these down.
- Favourite lettering tools, e.g., fineliners, pens, markers; colours, e.g., gouache, favourite inks; if your papers are dark, bring white pencil and white media.
- Cutting mat, at least 12 x 18”
- Mat knife with plenty of fresh blades, i.e., X-acto, Olfa; I’ll bring pliers and sharps disposal container. □ Scissors
- Awl
- Bone folder
- Metal ruler, at least 12”
- Triangle, T-square, L-square, or whatever you use to square paper
- Glue stick, or paste + paste brush, or double-sided tape
- Scrap paper for pasting, about 20 to 25 sheets
- Small rag or facecloth/dishcloth (not tea towel size) plus a plastic container to hold cloth to wipe sticky fingers; alternatively, paper towels
- Small weight to press/flatten pasted items while drying, i.e., hardcover book, stone tile
- Pencil, eraser, sharpener
- Notetaking materials

### Paper essentials

**Paper ephemera you love**, but don’t know what to do with:

- Marks on quality paper, practice lettering, or failed project to be deconstructed and parts reclaimed □ Paste paper, marbled paper, gelli prints, etc.
- Drawings
- Japanese paper scraps
- Maps
- Postage stamps

- Antique and/or deconstructed book pages

Not necessarily all of the above, but papers you love.

### **Overwhelmed?**

Yikes! OK, you might have LOTS of stuff. What to do?

- Limit by choosing a palette of 3 to 4 colours to use in class.
- Choose a common theme you can articulate, e.g., sumi lettering on white paper, marks using experimental tools, maps and travel, geometric shapes, etc. Include solid-coloured and/or textured scraps for contrast.
- Bring what you can carry and play depending on your mood!

### **Paper for Communal Scrap Heap**

**Paper ephemera you will never use again;** stuff in your collection that you can't part with because it's on quality paper.

- If it has already served your purpose, maybe someone else can use it. Feel free to donate usable ephemera to the communal Scrap Heap. It might be just what your classmate needs to complete their masterpiece! *One person's trash is another person's treasure.*
- If you change your mind, you can always retrieve it to take home. No questions asked; we understand the tacit tug of ephemera...

### **Optional**

**Bring if you have, but please don't buy**

- Small paper trimmer with sharp blade
- Craft punches in shapes to match your theme, e.g., circles, squares, ovals, ellipses, etc.

### **Questions about Supplies?**

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