

# COLLAGE CREATE-ALONG

SESSION 2

BY LENÉ PIETERS

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## I am Unique and so are You

Whenever we deal with any life-changing events, we must remain focused on who we are and what we are capable of enduring. It is important to take stock of our strengths and past accomplishments that have brought us to the present day. Our inner strength will help us overcome life's challenges.

While you are selecting your magazine images for today's session, think of a few experiences that helped you grow as a person. Select images that speak to you or that represent your feelings about each particular experience. You can be drawn to a shape, the colour or patterns on it. There is no right or wrong, just your feelings and your private expression of them. Now, take some smaller collage elements to represent love, forgiveness and kindness and add them to the bead shape. Transform each bead into something beautiful. Follow along with these easy steps, while you consider the prompt and how it makes you feel.

**Prompt: What experiences have made you stronger and more unique?**

Materials List:

Old magazines  
Scissors  
Pens  
Glue stick  
Old book/sketchbook/cardstock as a base  
Anything that can help you trace and cut out circles or ovals

Let's get started....

Tear out images that appeal to you today, while you focus on the theme. If it fits, tear it out. You can always save the unused images for another day.

Selection made, start tracing/cutting your circles and ovals. You can also use unique shapes as you find them, like the leopard heads or lamp shades.

Choose an interesting figure with hands to hold your necklace of beads. If you cannot find one, you can pick a background that looks pleasing, and simply let the beads become a necklace on the page.

I selected a darker image that matched the figure's colours to form a cohesive whole across two pages.



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## SESSION 2 CONTINUED

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The two beads on the left side of the image are examples of how I created new beads. The strip of red chili peppers become a beautiful stripe across the lamp shade. The blue circles add some depth to the luscious orange slices.

A doorknob becomes a flower on a lipstick tube.

The 2 leopard heads are joined together with some embroidery print. A sunburst mirror was cut into an oval shape and decorated with a beautiful strawberry pie.

Play around with the images. You are free to assemble as many little assembled beads as you like.



Glue down your background images. I chose to position the model's hands near the top of the page for maximum space to focus the attention on the beads instead.

Arrange the beads as you would like to see them on a necklace. It is advisable to "string them up", because we want to "keep it together". If you have real string you want to glue down, remember to glue it under the beads.

Take a photo of your piece and look at it from different angles. Do you like the layout? Once you are happy, glue down each bead. I like to glue the middle only, so that I can lift the edges when drawing the threads with a white pen.

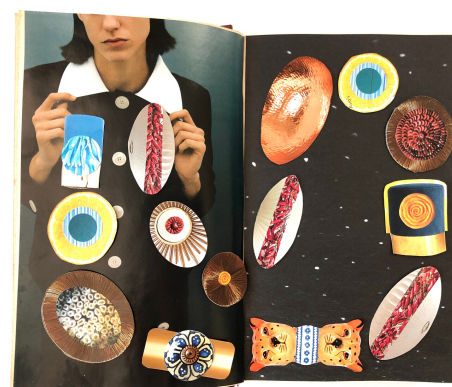
After each bead has been connected, I drew little "knots" by making a number 8 across the string. As a string of precious pearls is knotted to prevent fraying and to protect them, your necklace can have a few knots to tie off any emotional loose-ends and to protect the happy memories you have assembled.

Add some writing, if you want to.

You can also sign and date the piece. This will help, when you look back in a few years and remember this period in your life.

Whenever you doubt yourself or want a reminder of how far you've come in life - look back at this collage layout and remember that you are one-of-a-kind and that you are precious.

With much creative hugs,  
Lené



I hope that you have enjoyed this free Collage Create-Along Session. Find more free Collage Create-Along Sessions on my personal website:

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