

A GUIDE FOR ALL AGES

89DAMES

Stylo Starr

Aug 29–Dec 31, 2020 | RBC Gallery

Welcome to Stylo Starr's exhibition,
89DAMES !

This exhibition presents Stylo's colourful and dynamic artwork exploring the light and beauty of Black women of the past.

The faces you will see in this exhibition are the women who graced the screens and magazine covers of the 1950s–1960s but are not as widely remembered in history as Marilyn Monroe or Elizabeth Taylor of the same era.

Whereas history has left out - or even demonized - these women unjustly, Stylo rightfully honours and elevates them in a spectacular series of collages.



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Photography by
George Qua-Ehoo.

WHO IS STYLO STARR?

Stylo Starr is a visual alchemist, based in Hamilton, who works with collages that have many layers.

She uses found images in her collages to tell the stories of Black lives to firmly ground their place in art history.

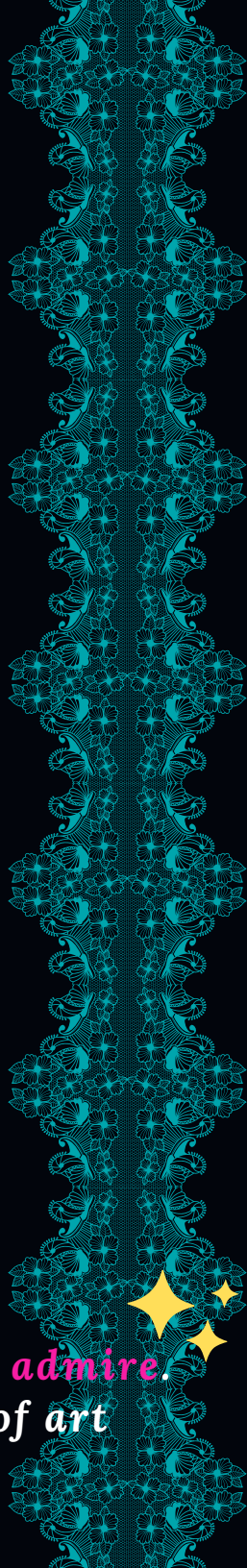
Her work, including *89DAMES*, has been shown both locally and internationally.

WHY 89DAMES?

89DAMES grew out of Stylo Starr questioning, "why am I not seeing myself reflected in the culture surrounding me?" She had many beautiful, talented Black stars that she grew up looking up to, yet it seemed like they have been erased in history while white stars like Marilyn Monroe continue to be worshipped and spoken of.

So Stylo went back to the JET Magazines of the 1950s and 1960s, whose covers often featured Black talent. Her 89 collages capture the light, beauty and energy of these spectacular women in dynamic, vibrant compositions. The lace and patterns that adorn the collages suggest the elegance and eye-popping colours of popular fashion at the time.

Now, think about *someone you admire.* How would you create a work of art to show your love for them?



YOUR TURN NOW!

Look for these artworks in the exhibition to find out the names of the women shown in them. Then, match them with the right names below.



Joyce Bryant (1928-)
Singer, dancer and activist



Diahann Carroll (1935-2019)
Singer, actress, model and activist



Pearl Bailey (1918-1990)
Singer, dancer and actress



Dorothy Dandridge
(1922-1965)
Singer, dancer and actress



Eartha Kitt (1927-2008)
Singer, actress and activist



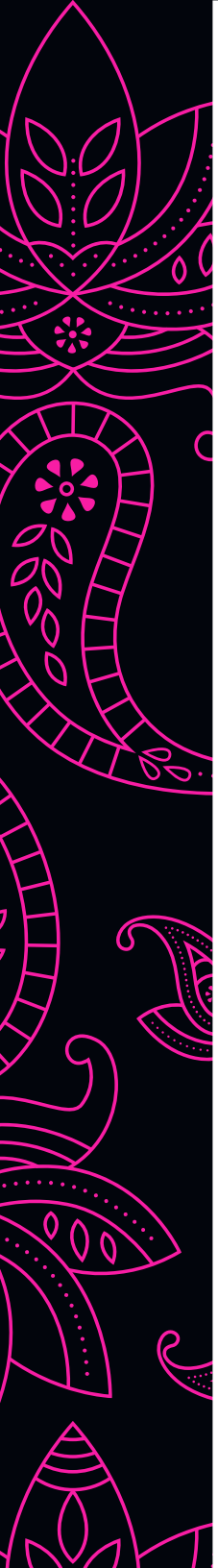
Carmen de Lavallade (1931-)
Actress, dancer and choreographer

Bonus!

Visit the AGB's Instagram page to learn more about these women.

Can you find answers to...

- Who was the voice of Yzma, a Disney villain in *The Emperor's New Groove*?
- Who was the original "Bronze Bombshell" long before Beyoncé?
- Who was the first Black actress with her own show in a role that wasn't a domestic worker?



WHAT IS A COLLAGE?

A **collage** is a process of making art by taking different materials like found images and sticking them onto a surface such as a piece of paper to create a new composition or narrative.

To make a collage, there are a few things to think about...



- What will your collage be about?
- What materials will you use? What materials can you find at home to reuse for your collage?
- How will you use the materials you have to communicate your idea?
- What techniques (cutting, ripping, pasting, etc.) will you use?

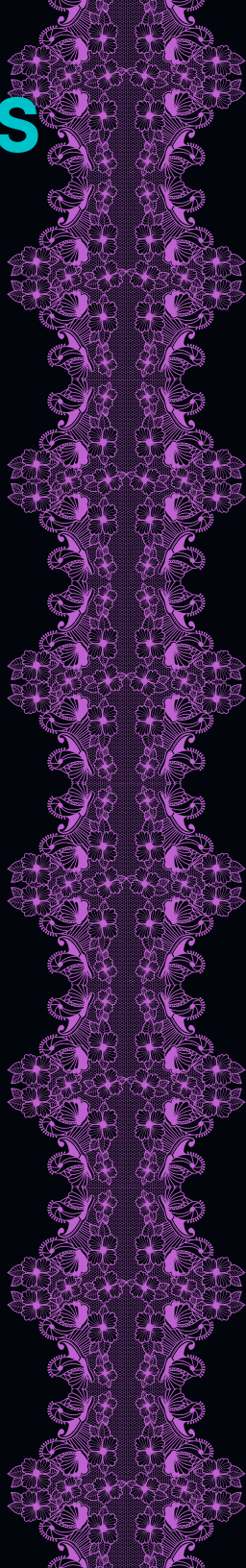
STYLO'S PROCESS

Stylo said that when she was creating *89DAMES*, she used her **intuition** to guide her.

Your intuition is your ability to know something based on how you're feeling at the time. By following her intuition and "what felt right," Stylo was able to create 89 different collages to represent each individual woman.

Reusing materials is also a huge part of Stylo's process. Why buy new things when you can use what you already have? Not only is this better for the environment, but it also finds a new purpose for something sitting around your home and makes it more meaningful to you.

Think of a time when you used your intuition to make a decision!





HOW DO YOU READ A COLLAGE?

While each collage is special and personal to the artist who creates it, you can try reading a collage by looking into the symbolism behind the images, materials, and techniques used.

Symbolism is when we use things like pictures, words, objects and colours to represent ideas.

For example, think about the colour **blue**. What feelings or ideas does this colour usually represent?

Bonus!

Choose a collage from the 89DAMES exhibition.

Try reading it! What ideas do you think the materials represent?

Consider:

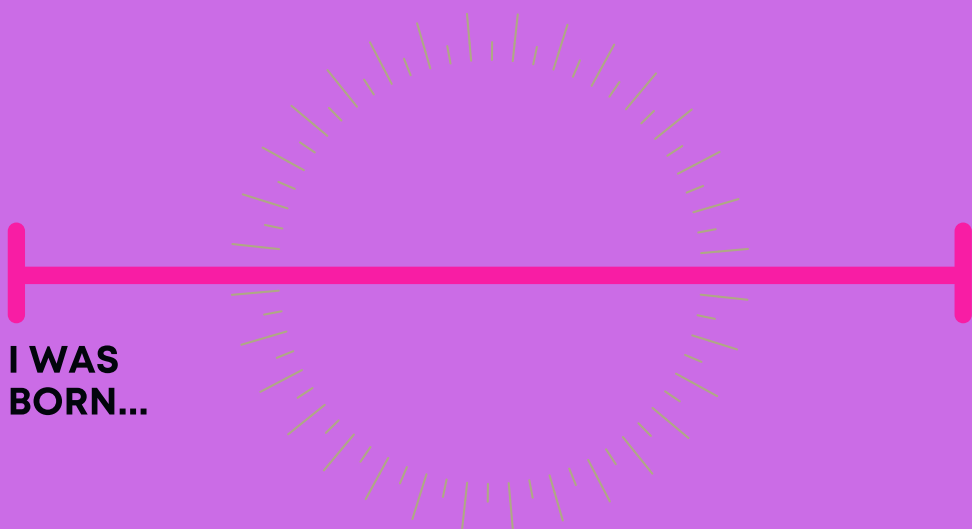
- Colour
- Texture
- Patterns
- Pictures and images

PART 1

LET'S MAKE A COLLAGE!

After reading the biographies of the six women
and learning how to make a collage,
think about your own life!

How would you write your life events on a
timeline? Who do you want to be in the future?



I WAS
BORN...

Also, think about the *people who inspire you.*
Are they people in your life that you know?
Is it someone who you look up to and want to be
like when you grow older?

PART 2

LET'S MAKE A COLLAGE!

Time to create your own collage!

You've already begun the brainstorming process
- you can create a collage about yourself, your
interests and your life OR about someone who
gives you inspiration.

Remember to think about the materials and
techniques you want to use and trust your
intuition!



**GRAB A SHEET OF PAPER
TO CREATE
YOUR COLLAGE**

ANYONE UP FOR EXTRA CHALLENGE?



We learned important words in this guide. How many of them can you find in the word search?

E	M	G	E	J	N	S	A	C	T	I	V	I	S	T	D	Z	D
Y	D	I	S	C	R	I	M	I	N	A	T	I	O	N	B	X	M
M	Q	F	M	D	S	C	H	O	I	C	O	L	L	A	G	E	S
G	A	H	A	P	T	D	X	A	N	D	A	M	E	N	W	M	Y
D	R	B	G	B	A	K	Z	J	T	N	J	I	S	M	M	L	M
U	Z	Y	T	T	R	J	W	J	U	V	B	C	R	V	X	V	B
V	M	W	R	U	N	B	W	D	I	N	V	A	K	I	N	T	O
K	R	E	P	R	E	S	E	N	T	A	T	I	O	N	S	D	L
E	Z	O	P	Y	R	E	U	S	I	N	G	F	L	A	C	E	I
W	N	U	D	A	I	K	K	T	O	U	E	U	R	H	R	R	S
X	W	S	W	M	S	L	L	T	N	M	X	M	D	Q	X	T	M
I	E	M	J	V	W	N	D	O	N	Y	S	W	K	H	Q	G	F

ACTIVIST

DISCRIMINATION

REPRESENTATION

COLLAGE

INTUITION

REUSING

SYMBOLISM



RECAP:

ACTIVIST

A person who speaks up and fights for what they believe in to bring change in their world

DISCRIMINATION

Being mean to people who you think are different from yourself

REPRESENTATION

Portrayal of a person or a group of people in a society, media or art in a particular way based on who they are or where they come from

COLLAGE

Art made by taking different materials like found images and sticking them onto a surface to create a new composition or narrative

INTUITION

Ability to know something based on how you are feeling at the time

REUSING

Using something again for the same/similar purpose or creating a new purpose for it

SYMBOLISM

Using things like pictures, words, objects and colours to make the viewers recall certain ideas in their mind





LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We acknowledge that the land where we are located is part of the ancient Dish With One Spoon Treaty and the Brant Tract Purchase, Treaty No. 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ of 1795, 1797 and 2010, and we are grateful to the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation and the Six Nations of the Grand River for sharing this territory with us.



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