

THE BEST SURFACES FOR MIXED MEDIA

Wood

Depending on the surface treatment, a variety of mediums can be applied.

Masonite

A hard-pressed fiberboard, sometimes called hardboard. Has a textured side and a smooth side. Found at hardware suppliers.

Stretched Canvas

Gessoed canvas cloth that has been stretched over a wood frame. Can be cost prohibitive on a large scale.

Canvas Board

Gessoed canvas cloth that covers a board. A less-expensive alternative to stretched canvas.

Cardboard

Available inexpensively from recycled packaging. Comes in a wide variety of thicknesses.

Tagboard

Similar to mat board. A heavy, not-quite-cardboard surface available in a variety of colors.

Bristol Board

Not actually a board, but a paper. Available in a variety of textures from rough to smooth. Depending on the weight, a variety of techniques can be applied.

Illustration Board

A one-sided paper with a heavy backing. Made in 2, 3, and 4 ply. 4 ply is the thickest and sturdiest.

Mixed Media Paper

Has a smoother texture and is meant to work with a variety of techniques. The higher the weight number, the heavier and thicker the paper.

Watercolor Paper

Has a light texture and works well with both wet and dry media. The higher the weight number, the heavier and thicker the paper.

Vellum

A parchment-like paper that is semi-transparent. Good for layering.

Old Books

Good sources of inspiration. Can be used for sketchbook paper, background paper, or as collage material to add visual interest.

Fabric

Can be used as a component or base for many mixed media works.