

# Something New with Collage

Singapore artist Goh Beng Kwan's first collage was assembled using materials he found around him like canvas, discarded ropes, shells and sand.

Goh liked to make collages as he could immediately use the materials to express his ideas and create a completed work of art.

**“ Everything can be used in my creative process. It becomes an artwork after piecing them together. ”**



Goh Beng Kwan. *Urban Renewal* 《市区从建》. 1977. Household paint, acrylic, rice paper, fabric and glue on canvas, 80 x 90.5 cm. Collection of National Gallery Singapore. Image courtesy of the artist.

Goh was known for experimenting with a wide variety of cultural materials, motifs and colours to make new forms of art.

Observe the artwork carefully.

- How many materials can you see in this collage?
- What lines and patterns do you recognise from the artwork?
- Look at the different forms made using the chosen materials, what do they remind you of?



Goh Beng Kwan. *Kreta Ayer Urban Renewal*. 1986.  
Household paint, rice paper, ink and glue on canvas  
laid on board, 71 x 71 cm. Collection of National  
Gallery Singapore. Image courtesy of the artist.

In the 1970s and 80s, many old houses were torn down and new buildings were built in Singapore. Many other changes were also made to improve our city.

This period of rapid changes inspired Goh to create artworks like *Urban Renewal* 《市区从建》 and *Kreta Ayer Urban Renewal*. What are some thoughts or issues you would like to portray using collage?

➤ What materials would you use?

Goh used a wide range of materials that other artists seldom use, such as tea-wrapping paper, sand and traditional Chinese medicine charts. He proved that when it comes to making art, anything can be used as an art material!



Try gathering pieces of coloured paper, felt and other scrap materials that you find at home to make your artwork today!