



## Up, Up & Away

**Justine Ickes**  
TORRINGTON, CONNECTICUT, USA

Expressing creativity, making connections and tapping into the wisdom of other cultures infuse everything I do. As a mixed-media artist, creative coach and retreat leader, I love to combine art techniques and styles from different cultures—personal map-making plus Japanese sashiko, embellishing handmade books with Turkish elvan or creating a mandala, for example—to help people widen their worlds through personal introspection and global exploration. Collage-making appeals to me, in particular, as a way to connect with my intuition, puzzle through life's mysteries and play with colours, patterns and shapes. This palette speaks to my experiences in the Mediterranean region, where I spent many happy years and where I continue to enjoy adventures with my multicultural family.

[justineickes.com/art](http://justineickes.com/art)



## Limited colours, unlimited ideas

**Esté MacLeod**  
LONDON, UK

Coloricombo is an ongoing creative colour challenge that started in 2022. Once a week a colour prompt is sent out to everyone who subscribes (it is free). The prompt consists of a selection of between two and five colours, picked from an artwork by an artist or designer from the past. The idea is to use these colours as a base, with the addition of a dark and neutral colour, for a creation in any media, subject or theme. Thousands have joined in this program, which is now in its third year. I think creativity flourishes when you are focused on using a limitation of dynamic colours, and I love seeing what people create—paintings, sketchbook and journaling, ceramics, embroidery, collage, etc. In addition to the colours, I send out a concise backstory of each featured artist. Very often these are lesser-known female artists and designers, as well as others who fall into obscurity. Get into a creative habit by doing a weekly colour project. Join in and see where they will lead you.

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## Confetti Wonder

**Leo Beaman**  
WARRINGEE BAY, NEW AUSTRALIA

Transforming a vase with confetti mirrors the experience of peering through a telescope on a stormy night, where distant lights meld into a captivating mosaic. Similar to how a telescope unveils the cosmos' grandeur, the confetti-adorned vase unveils a tiny world brimming with artistic ingenuity. The vibrant confetti pieces cover like distant stars, weaving a mesmerizing tapestry that evokes wonder and fascination. The journey to create this confetti vase commenced with a cardboard skeleton, forming its foundational structure. Over this frame, layers of plaster sheets and paper mâtché were applied, gradually fashioning a sturdy shell-like exterior. Once the vase assumed this durable form, the final step was meticulously applying the confetti.

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## One Color a Day

**Courtney Curatti**  
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This is the practice of painting one colour and writing one line of text every day for a year. It was a visual way to record the small (and big) moments of my life that year. I started the practice in 2017 and it became a published fill-in sketchbook called *One Color a Day*, released in 2020 with Abrams.

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