



Combining Printing and Collage Techniques in the Creation of Paintings Derived from Abstract African Art Forms

Nagwa Kamel Mohamed, Gidaa Ali Alamry, Naglaa Muhammad Farouk Ahmed

¹Department of Home Economics - College of Culture and Arts- Abha - King Khalid University, P.O. Box 3236. Abha

²Associate Professorat at the College of Culture and Performing Arts - king Khalid University, Abha 62529, Saudi Arabia, Email: galamri@kku.edu.sa

³Associate Professor at the College of Culture and Arts, Department of Home Economics - College of Culture and Arts- Abha - King Khalid University, P.O. Box 3236. Abha,

nalsaied@kku.edu.sa

Abstract :

The artist seeks to achieve aesthetic creativity compatible with the society in which he is and always needs features, ideas and creative inputs to enrich the performance of the design and obtain distinct designs, so the research deals with four basic entrances, namely the entrance to show the different abstract values of the aesthetics of African art forms and the entrance to show these abstract values through stencil printing technique, and the entrance to show these abstract values through collage printing technology and the entrance is interested in implementing designs Through these entrances, the collage technique was clarified, and the abstract values found in African art forms, in terms of treatment and style of performance, addressing the topics and their values, connotations and distinctive features, clarifying abstract art and clarifying how to link them to make contemporary designs, and the research aims to shed light on the benefit of the integration of printing technology and collage technique in enriching aesthetic and plastic values in the painting inspired by abstract African art, has been using the descriptive experimental approach, and has been the implementation of (4) of contemporary paintings and the most important results of the employment of units and vocabulary of African art and the expressive values involved in addition to its plastic value in the works of artists, achieved creative entrances can be used in the field of printing study.

Keywords : Printing technique – collage technique – paintings – African art forms – abstraction

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Introduction:

With the development of the arts in general and plastic art in particular towards modernity and beyond, one of the problems of this development becomes clear, which is the problem of rejecting the realistic form as the dominant and dominant form of pre-modern arts. The neglect of the realistic form began with the vanguards of impressionist art at the end of the nineteenth century and continued with the movements of post-impressionism, expressionism, Dadaism, surrealism, cubism, and others, up to abstraction, including Kandinsky's lyrical abstraction, which eliminated the realistic form, as Kandinsky was interested in color at the expense of form and called his art the art of internal necessity) and critics called this art the non-figurative or subjective. It became a phenomenon of plastic art at the beginning of the twentieth century (Salloum, Shaira, 2013: 664).

The word abstraction is an old word, art forms are not always purely realistic, but they are forms that start from the close resemblance of tangible reality, to the likeness, any work of art, but it is composed of (something object) and the subject (Subject), and the thing is the material tangible realistic such as marble cloth and others, while the subject is an unrealistic form of imagination or intuition. (Bahnasi, 1997, 240).

Collage is a type of artistic activity used in abstract art and that type of artistic activities that open up creativity for everyone through their integration into the installation of artistic elements, and printing is characterized by wide and distinct artistic possibilities, as it provides renewed thought to find an innovative artistic relationship, so the **study seeks to combine printing technology and collage technique in the work of contemporary paintings inspired by abstract African art.**

Study problem:

The black continent has a distinct cultural identity and has a special and unique character, which creates a symbolic art characterized by subjectivity, spontaneity, simplicity and abstraction, and carries with it many aesthetic and plastic values that highlight the artist's interaction, harmony and coexistence with the environment and his unity with it, and through this study shows the problem of the study in how to enrich abstract African art with artistic, aesthetic and plastic values and how to combine printing and collage techniques in the work of contemporary paintings inspired by African art. **The problem of the study can be crystallized in this main question: How to combine printing and collage techniques in the creation of contemporary paintings inspired by African art?** Several sub-questions emerge from these questions:

- How to use collage technology to create paintings inspired by African art?
- How to use printing technology to create paintings inspired by African art?
- Is it possible to benefit from the combination of printing and collage technique to enrich aesthetic and plastic values in painting inspired by abstract African art?

Objectives of the study:

- Revealing the benefit of collage technique in creating paintings inspired by African art.
- Reveal how printing technology can be used to create paintings inspired by African art.
- Shedding light on the benefit of the integration of printing and collage techniques in enriching aesthetic and plastic values in painting inspired by African art.

Importance of the study:

- Highlighting the aesthetics of African art
- Take advantage of abstract African art to enrich typography technique.
- Utilize abstract African art to enrich collage technique.
- Combining typography and collage in artworks inspired by African art.

Study assignments:

The study assumes that printing and collage can be combined to create contemporary paintings inspired by abstract African art.

Research Methodology:-

The research follows the descriptive analytical and experimental approach.

- **Descriptive approach:** Studying the forms of abstract African art, and the abstract aesthetic values in it, and identifying the collage technique and printing techniques appropriate for this art.

- **Experimental approach:** through experiments with different printing techniques, and collage method to achieve contemporary designs that illustrate the abstract values of the aesthetics of various abstract African art forms.

Search limits:

·Objective research limits:

- The use of forms of abstract African art,
- The use of printing pastes with opaque, transparent, prominent and various dyes.
- Print on cotton canvas.
- Use stencil technique .
- The use of different collage materials (colored paper for forms of African art - glue).

Previous studies:

1- A study (Milad Ibrahim et al., 2022) entitled "The development of graphic paintings in collage style inspired by African art as an entrance to enrich the pictorial painting of specific education students" The study aimed to develop compositions inspired by African art and formulate them using the collage method and enrich the aesthetic and plastic values in the pictorial paintings of fourth-year students, Department of Art Education, Faculty of Specific Education, Menoufia University (research sample) inspired by African art, and dealt with in its applied framework a practical experience On a random sample of the fourth year, Faculty of Specific Education, Department of Art Education, (19) male and female students, (2) males, (17) females, and the research followed the analytical approach in its theoretical framework and the semi-experimental approach in its practical framework and through the theoretical and experimental study of the current research, the researcher reached the following results: The emergence of the collage style in the twentieth century in an attempt to link art with daily life, the diversity and multiplicity of styles, performance methods, technical methods in collage, and the association of collage with many modern and contemporary arts such as cubism, surrealism and pop Art and other arts and the researcher reached new pictorial paintings with collage through heritage inspiration from the African mask.

2- A study (Nirvana Mohamed Ibrahim 2020) entitled "The Impact of Abstract Art Using Collage on the Development of Artistic Creativity in a Kindergarten Child" The research aimed to identify abstract art, its history, types and most important methods, represented in the collage technique and how to use this technique with the kindergarten child to develop artistic creativity and employ manufactured materials of all kinds to be a source of inspiration for the kindergarten child. The researcher used the Torrance Creativity Scale (**prepared by Torrance et al. (1966)**), and the researcher was limited to using image (b) of the scale. And an activity card for the environmental concepts of the kindergarten child using the collage technique with the remnants of manufactured materials (**prepared by the researcher**) as research tools. The researcher applied the research tools to a sample of 30 children from the second level of kindergarten (5 (6) years) . **The results of the research resulted** in the effectiveness of the collage technique as one of the methods of abstract art, using the remnants of manufactured materials in the development of artistic creativity in the kindergarten child.

3- A study (Nashwa Mohamed Essam et al. 2019) entitled "Enriching the artistic work by combining manual printing techniques and Origami art techniques inspired by the motifs of Islamic art" aimed at discovering the aesthetics of Origami art and benefiting from it to make contemporary artifacts, and combining manual printing techniques and Origami art techniques inspired by Islamic art motifs enriches the artistic work, based on the experimental descriptive approach in practical applications, and an experiment was conducted on the fifth level students of the works material Artistic to achieve plastic values inspired by the motifs of Islamic art to produce artifacts through the aesthetics and possibilities of combining the methods of printing and stencil printing.

4- A study (Najla Mohammed 2017) entitled "The development of printing pendants with manual printing techniques and Uruguayan art techniques inspired by the abstract school" The study aimed to put forward new approaches to typographic design in new formulations based on printing techniques and ergami art techniques inspired by the abstract school, and the experimental descriptive approach and statistical methods were used to compare and analyze the results through the implementation of eleven designs suitable as printed pendants and are available in the technical design pendants Contemporary derived from modern theories, and one of the most important results is that modern theories can be used to find new innovative design solutions in the field of printing and artistic pendants.

Study terminology:

-African Art:

Al-Sayed and Ibrahim 2020 is a primitive art that symbolizes the expression of the interrelationship between aesthetic expression and religious beliefs and feelings, scribbles and drawings on the roofs of rock bunkers that were used as ritual light for prehistoric peoples.

He also stressed (Abdel Mawgoud, 2020) that it is the fruit of African human talents since ancient times, whose goal was to meet the requirements of African society, and it was inherited by successive generations and contributed to enriching it intellectually and colorfully with spontaneity and sincerity, which gave it distinctive characteristics that made it one of the international arts.

It is defined procedurally: as art that has been the fruit of the talents of the African people since ancient times, aims to meet the needs of African society and transfer it to future generations, enrich African society intellectually, color it with spontaneity and sincerity, and become a scientist and art gave it a unique characteristic.

-Collage technique:

They are images based on different materials that are grouped together such as scraps of paper or magazines, wallpaper, printed drawings, pieces of fabric, threads, etc... It can be suggested in two or three dimensions. (Mazrou, 2012, 459)

Al-Sudairi (2017, 142) defined it as a method in which various materials such as wood, metal, newspaper and magazine clippings, waste metals, fabric residues and other materials with plastic potential are used.

-Printing Technology:

I knew it (Nahla Shaaban, 2023, p. 218) the way in which colorful models or drawings can be obtained in different ways on various types of fabric known from cotton, wool, silk, linen, ... etc., or mixtures of these fibers.

Procedural steps of the research:

First: Theoretical Framework: It includes:

- Learn about African art, between the past and the present.
- Study the emergence of abstract art.
- Study the advantages of abstract art.
- What is collage art, and materials used in collage art.

Second: Practical Framework:

By benefiting from the results of the study in the theoretical framework

- Implementation of a number of contemporary designs inspired by the aesthetics of abstract African art and their implementation in contemporary printing paintings using collage and stencil technique.

- Adding variables such as transparent pigment colors, opaque and pigment, color value variables, and using collage technique.
- Implementing and employing these designs in contemporary printing pendants to achieve artistic and aesthetic goals.
- **Provide the results and recommendations in the light of the results of the research.**

Theoretical Framework:

First: African art: African art

It is the fruit of African human talents since ancient times, and its goal was to meet the requirements of African society, and it was inherited by successive generations, which contributed to enriching it intellectually and formatively with spontaneity, honesty and intelligence, which gave it distinct characteristics that made it one of the international arts, and has its own aesthetic impact, and is appreciated by everyone who has a sense of civilization (**Abdel Hamid, 2016, p. 4**), "He is characterized by originality, expresses the past, and carries with it a cultureThe society in which the African artist arises, and African art is considered one of the oldest arts, dating back to the Stone Age in the prehistoric era, and expresses tangible sensory reality without arrangement, coherence or complex formation, and may represent images of animals, birds, trees, humans, scenes from nature or the universe, or related to magic symbols or pagan phrases, and it appears clearly in the achievements of the artwork related to religious celebrations and events, whether in statues, drawings, masks or tattoos. Expressing the spirit of the religious community influenced by its customs, the African artist painted animal images to overcome them, hunt them or prevent their evil. (**Salam, 2013, p. 7**)

African art from past to present:

African art appeared in the drawings on the rocks. Ancient Egyptian art is part of African art history, and although there are important exchanges between Egypt, the Mediterranean world and the Asian world, Egypt is part of the continent of Africa. Primitive African art has been the fruit of African human talent since ancient times.

Second: Abstract Art:

The Birth of Abstract Art: (Al-Mahmoudi, 2017)

The origin of abstract art dates back to what was painted in ancient times on rocks and pottery, but the idea of doing an artwork based on simplicity in depicting visuals shined in the nineteenth century AD when artists with impressionist and expressive movements appeared, so artworks appeared that explain a story, as did artists who studied the visual perception of light, in addition to the emergence of ideas that move away from tradition and idealism, and ideas that call for imagination as one of the most important factors of creativity, and in 1890 AD the artist Maurice pointed out Dennis pointed out that it is important to remember that a picture before it is a story, or a horse, or anything else, is originally a flat surface that contains a set of colors arranged in a certain way.

Characteristics of abstract art: (McKever, R. 2016, p.515)

Abstract art has several advantages, which are as follows:

- Diagnosing psychological phenomena without representing them, that is, not returning to the forms that have been known, but relying on what is issued by the human spirit absolutely, in addition to relying on what is behind the realistic matter, and the reliance remained on that until abstract art reached being the art of subjective reality.
- Reliance on pictorial expressive elements: that is, relying on analytical expressions that are related to everything that is supernatural, or difficult to understand because of the depth in it, or related to showing emotion more clearly and directly, through expression with tangible signals, or connotations and symbols

that appear through lines, colors, and sizes, which does not prejudice the original, when drawing something, its aesthetic is relied on away from its natural properties.

- Considering it one of the most important artistic methods that have absorbed the mental and emotional trend The mental direction includes the base, order, harmony, and construction, while the emotional trend is the spiritual aspect, as abstract art is one of the arts that have achieved a balance between the artist's mind and imagination in a way that moves away from tradition while containing any renewal that supports formation, and this is represented by the presence of a mental interpretation of artistic developments that create a balance between the inner feeling of the artist and what he draws with his hand of abstract forms, passing through colors, consistency and contrast, texture, lines, and spaces, so the process appears The art is smoothly complete with a balanced rhythm.

Aesthetic and plastic values in African art:

Shape:

Either the form comes to express reality and nature directly, or is accompanied by some distortion, or combines the two styles.

Simulation of nature: The African artist has an innate sense that qualifies him to re-deposit his artwork inspired by nature in an attempt to adhere to the literal transfer of reality, and thus the extent of his success in simulating nature depends on his ability to portray his ideas through a transfer of the elements of nature available in his environment and can realize them financially.

Absence of perspective: The African artist tends to flatten and omit perspective, as he represented the forms close to the sight with the same sizes of the shapes far from sight.

Distortion in nature: The artist resorts to distortion from nature in order to express religious beliefs, rituals and beliefs that he believes in and that do not constitute a physical entity that is in front of him.

Sensory expression: Expression in an African work of art is not in the mental sense that can be understood and interpreted, but rather an emotional connotation that is perceived in an intuitive way.

Simplification: in shapes, details and color spaces, and this later became a style for a large number of contemporary artists.

Synthesis of materials: Each material has its own significance in African art, where the African artist's creative ability to choose materials complementary to his artwork appeared.

Some artists who have been influenced by African art

First, the West:

- Pablo Picasso:

The artist "Pablo Picasso" is one of the most prominent artists of the modern era who were influenced by African masks in their works, so he produced the most creative and most important works during his stage called the Negro stage, and therefore it has been said about him that Picasso was influenced by African Negro sculpture, including its clear emotional energy and expressive power towards the unknown in a rough style and abstract simplicity summarized for the most important features of the thing, with its boldness, expressiveness and innate spontaneity, so it produces in his famous painting (Les Femmes d'Alger) with sharp angles and sloping flats, (Rehab Muhammad Abu Zeid et al., 2018, p. 176) as it is clear the effect of African masks, (Moataz Fathi, 2000, pp. 7, 8) as shown in Figure (1).



Figure (1)

Source: <http://www.theartstory.org/>

- **Constantin Brancusi:**

Brancuzzi presented solutions in the formation of heads with an oblique oval shape and see his treatment with an abstract inclination, as in the piece called the White Negro at the Museum of Art Philadelphia Figure (2), and shows the oval shape of the head and the shape of the lips that suggest the influence of the African face and appear simple expression and smoothness of the outer lines.



Figure (2).

Source: <https://www.wikiart.org/>

As for the Egyptian arts:

- **Hamed Nada (1924-1990)**

Hamed Nada was born in November 1924 and obtained a diploma in fine arts in Cairo in 1951 and traveled on a mission to Spain, where he obtained a diploma in painting from the Academy of Fine Arts in Madrid in 1977 and received several awards, including the first in photography in 1959. The second prize for photography at the Alexandria Biennale in 1959, and the gold prize at the Kuwait Biennial in 1975, was produced as an element of honor at the Cultural Center of the Mediterranean Basin in Barcelona in 1977 .He also wrote his life and art in the Larousse Dictionary of Contemporary Art and was a faculty member at the Faculty of Fine Arts, Helwan University, and then head of the Mural Painting Division at the same faculty. (Sabri Abdel Ghani, 1995, p. 82)

Since the forties, the artist Hamed Nada has been able to digest various artistic trends and reshape them again in most of his works, and although the female body in the eighties seemed to be flexible, that body took an evolution in shape, then we find it first to reflect the virtuous mother, then evolve to be a symbol of fertilization, then it appears as a gender element - and finally to become a form related to and associated with the idea of the good land - the homeland - and like this development of the female as a symbol, we also find it in the rooster Where you find it in the fifties reflects the symbol of patriotism, new

resurrection and awakening, and then becomes a symbol of masculinity over the sixties and then settles recently to be a popular tattoo to bring the happy line that is true in the rest of the elements such as fish, birds and reptiles, where we find the symbol has passed through several stages to finally settle to be a symbol of an African totem. This development in dealing with the elements of his paintings and the relationships of those elements to each other to form a unit with special meanings. (Sabri Abdel Ghani, previous reference, p. 90) You can also see in the paintings that he was influenced by a key element of African art, which is distorted African people, and we find the dialogue of people with birds similar to the dialogue of statues with animals and birds. The engraving on the statues was also translated into an inscription on its figures depicted in the painting, and from here we can clearly observe the common features between African art and the works of the artist Hamid Nada in Figure (3).



Figure (3)

Source: <http://www.artnet.de/>

Third: The nature of collage: (Ibrahim, 2005)

The art of collage depends on cutting and pasting to form various shapes, and collage is a French word derived from coller, which is a picture based on different materials that are grouped together such as scraps of paper or magazines, newspapers, wallpaper, printed drawings, pieces of cloth or threads, and others such as glass, metal wire, wood, leather Etc.

Fourth: Materials used in collage art: (Oscar Liebman, 1979, p. 23)

- Paper

It is considered one of the most used materials in collage, and includes magazine papers, newspapers, paper affixed to bottles and jars, tickets for theaters, planes and trains, gift boxes, matchboxes, raw paper that is available in the form of sheets such as cardboard, and these types of paper can be used in collage by cutting and pasting it to the surface of the board in the same condition, or used after processing to maintain its color and texture, and paper can be cut randomly, or cut into geometric or organic shapes.

-Fabrics:

Fabrics are suitable materials for use in collage, because of the unlimited diversity of decorations, textures and colors in the fabric, and there are types of fabrics characterized by their tactile effects that can be exploited in the work of collage, such as: lace, satin burlap, and silk.

Combining typography and collage technique in creating paintings derived from abstract African art forms is a creative approach that combines multiple elements to create unique and expressive works of art. Such a combination can be done in the following ways:

1. Printing Technology: (Razzaz, 2007)

- Color or silkscreen printing can be used to convey patterns or symbols inspired by African art on paper or canvas.
- Woodblock printing is another technique that can be used to convey traditional African motifs, such as geometric patterns or spiritual symbols.

2. Collage technique: (Al-Sudairy, 2017)

- After the different elements are printed, they can be cut and distributed on the board in a variety of ways to create distinctive visual effects.
- Other materials such as traditional African fabrics, coloured papers or textile ribbons can be combined to add depth and variety in texture and color.

3. Merging the two technologies: (Baghdadi, 2010)

- The painting can start with layers of printing as the basis, and then pieces of collage are added on top of it to form a composite image that reflects African symbols and shapes.
- Parts of duplicate printing can also be reused differently in collage to show contrast and harmony between abstract elements

Second: Practical Framework:

From the above, the study found in the theoretical framework that there are abstract values for the aesthetics of African art implemented with printing techniques and collage techniques, and the study will conduct a subjective experiment to achieve this in contemporary printing paintings with the use of basic technology collage technique and stencil printing technique.

Self-application activity is carried out in the field of printing according to the following

- Implementation of artistic publications based in their composition on plastic formulations and abstract values of abstract team art.
- Analysis of the work done to clarify the following
- The extent to which these abstract values of African art can be reached in printing publications.
- Analyze the results of the research to verify the research hypotheses.
- Provide appropriate proposals and recommendations in the light of the results reached.

Experimentation Controls:

The controls of experimentation are determined as follows:

First - Printing materials:

Colors of printing transparent fabrics (pigment), opaque, pigments, brushes, plastic pipes, pestles for stencil printing, wax, glue, previously printed colored paper,.

Second: - Printing surfaces :

The research experiment is based on canvas material.

Third: - Methods and methods of performance typography:

- Stencil printing (basic technology)
- Collage (sub-technique added to the design)
- Application side of research and technical analysis of printing works:

Artistic methods for formulating forms of abstract African art in printing pendants:

-Exaggeration and deletion - reduction of the elements that make up forms of African art - space window - coloring direct drawing to emphasize the expressive aspect - addition and deletion - repetition - collage technique of pasting and cutting - this in addition to the artist's style and uniqueness in the formulation, each artist has an original perception of art, which is derived from the total viewing and previous experiences and an entity of artwork won admiration and virtue to reflect the idea and contents that seeks to express it achieving originality in the artwork that it presents.

First artwork:



Analytical Description:

Materials: White cotton fabric - pigment colors - printing dyes - brushes of different sizes - glue - stencil previously branched in the required form - sponge pestles - Canvas board.

Typographic methods and methods: the basic technique of direct drawing printing stencil printing - and the added technique collage

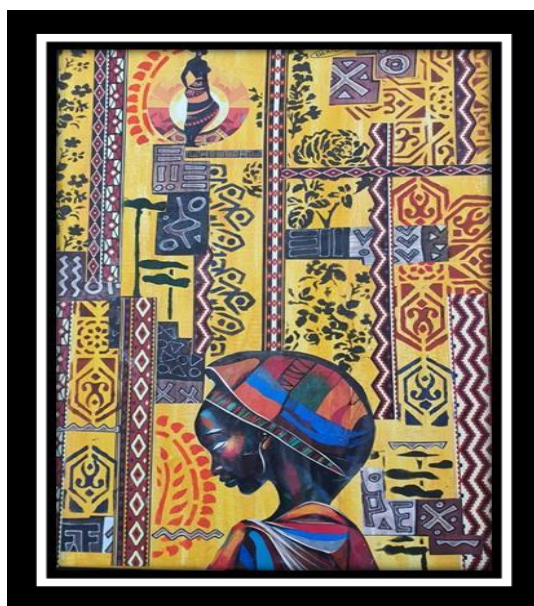
Aesthetics of printing work:

The work represents a picture of the forms and units of African folk dances in an abstract style, where the units and constituent parts of the work were employed in a new unusual formulation, which is the image of an African face in the abstract half wearing on the head of a cover with abstract drawings with abstract drawings derived from the motifs of African art, around this destination a group of abstract forms and elements derived from the motifs of African art in an abstract style

In the lower half of the painting there is a group of abstract people longitudinal rectangular expressing the values, forms and rituals of African art and the usual African dancers expressive in the form of tapes and we note the use of black color prevailing in the shapes at the bottom of the artwork, also used on the right side of the artwork the yellow color, and on the left side of the artwork the heavenly color, which caused harmony and interdependence between the shapes with each other. Stencil printing and collage technique are colored commensurate with the elements, the diversity of sectors of the faces and their

interweaving confirmed the exit of the form from static to movement. Using multimedia in expressing concepts to express the philosophical concept of the work, by coloring the shapes using direct drawing technique with dyes and pigment colors, and using the collage technique by pasting newspaper papers in parts of the design, which achieved a coherence between the shapes with each other.

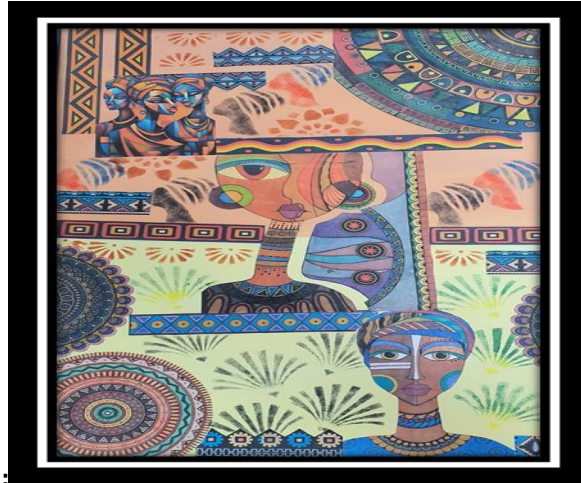
Second artwork



Analytical Description:

- **Materials:** White cotton fabric - pigment colors - printing dyes - brushes of different sizes - glue - stencil previously branched in the required form - sponge pestles - Canvas board .
- **Typographic methods and methods:** the basic technique of direct drawing printing stencil printing - and the added technique collage
- **Aesthetics of printing work:**

The work represents an image of the forms of African units in an abstract style, where the units and components of the work were employed in a new unusual formulation, which is an image of an African destination at the bottom of the work, around this face a group of abstract shapes and elements in the form of vertical strips derived from the decorations of African art in an abstract style. Direct drawing printing, stencil printing and colored collage technique commensurate with the elements, the diversity of sectors from the faces and their interweaving confirmed the exit of the form from static to movement. Using multimedia in expressing concepts to express the philosophical concept of the work, by coloring the shapes using direct drawing technique with dyes and pigment colors, and using the collage technique by pasting newspaper papers in parts of the design, which achieved a coherence between the shapes with each other.



Third artwork

Analytical Description:

• **Materials:** White cotton fabric - pigment colors - printing dyes - brushes of different sizes - glue - stencil previously branched in the required form - sponge pestles - Canvas board.

• **Typographic methods and methods:** the basic technique of direct drawing printing stencil printing - and the added technique collage

Aesthetics of printing work:

The work represents units of African forms in an abstract style, where the units and constituent parts of the work were employed in a new unusual formulation, which is the image of an African face in the abstract half around a group of abstract drawings derived from the motifs of African art, around this face a group of abstract forms and elements derived from the motifs of African art in an abstract style

In the lower half of the painting there is another abstract person, the whole work expresses the symbols, values and rituals of African art life, and we note the common colors in the work are the color (orange - green - blue), which happened harmony and interdependence between the shapes with each other. Using multimedia in expressing concepts to express the philosophical concept of the work, by coloring the shapes using direct drawing technique with dyes and pigment colors, and using the collage technique by pasting newspaper papers in parts of the design, which achieved a coherence between the shapes with each other.

Fourth artwork:

-Employing the units and vocabulary of African art and its expressive values, in addition to its plastic value in the works of artists, achieved creative approaches that can be used in the field of printing study.

Recommendations:

- Paying attention to the preparation of more specialized studies that are concerned with printing technology and collage technology in the work of some of the artistic designs.
- Work on the implementation of studies related to collage technique based on natural materials as an entry point for the development of contemporary artistic creativity.
- Conducting studies on abstract African art forms.
- The research recommends that the findings of the current research should be used to reveal how printing and collage techniques are combined in contemporary designs of African art.
- Continuity of research and the detection of new creative axes in achieving aesthetic integration between printing techniques and collage techniques

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