

GUARDIAN HARE

KAAREN POOLE



The Hare is your special Guardian. I hope you enjoy creating her and then making her a part of your days by displaying her in a place where she can be near you. After all, we can all use reminders we can enjoy happiness, joy, and peace, and express gratitude and joy.

This is a collage/mixed media project with painted and other embellishment. You can finish it to hang from a ribbon or in a small fancy frame. Alternatively, you can display it on an easel.

You will need:

An 8" x 8" support, either 1/8" or 1/4" wood or MDF (medium density fiberboard) board, or a cradled wood panel, or a piece of 140 lb mixed media or watercolor paper (if you use paper, use a ruler and pencil to mark an 8" x 8" rectangle, but don't cut it out until you've finished your piece.

A single background image from a magazine, bigger than 8"x8", or you can combine multiple images to cover the entire background

Text page from a book or light-color magazine clipping at least 5" x 5", or you can use multiple text pages and clippings which together form a 4 1/2" square

Pieces of magazine images that coordinates with your background piece(s). This will be for the inner frame. You will need four pieces about 1" x 5" to cut or tear to the exact size you will need

Snippets from magazines in colors to cut leaf shapes from

Snippets from magazine in colors for flowers (to cut flowers from), or images of flowers in sizes appropriate for your piece

White Gesso

Water basin

Paper towels

Adhesive for collage (I use Liquitex matte gel medium)

Flat wide brush for applying gel medium

Tracing paper

2B pencil

Tape

Stylus or ball point pen

Colored pencils (colors with an 'F' are Faber-Castell Polychromos; colors with 'D' are Derwent Drawing pencils. I've included color swatches on the last page of this PDF so you can select color matches from whatever brand of pencils you have.)

White (F)
Yellow Ochre (D)
Brown Ochre (F)
Burnt Sienna (F)
Walnut Brown (F)
Dark Sepia (F)
Chrome Yellow (F)
Dark Flesh (F)
Pompeiiian Red (F)
Cold Grey III (F)
Light Phthalo Blue (F)

Scissors

Black or dark brown size 1 waterproof pen (I used Sakura Pigma Graphic)

Fine line black and white Paint pens (I used Posca)

A sheet of scrapbook paper or wrapping paper for the back (optional, but this is nice if you're using a board for the support and want to display it on an easel. It gives the back a finished look.)

Kraft knife, optional, but see step 19b.

If you test your black or brown pen (see step 16) and find that it's not waterproof, you'll need Krylon Workable Fixatif to prevent the pen from smearing. If you don't have any, you can get this from amazon.com or an on-line (such as dickblick.com) or local art supply store.

8" x 8" frame (if you used paper for the support) OR 24" of ½" ribbon in a coordinating color (if you used a board for the support)

Process:

1. If you are using wood for a support, seal it with a coat of gesso. Seal the sides as well as the front. Sealing the back is optional.
2. Using the matte gel medium as your adhesive, adhere the background piece or pieces to your support. Apply the adhesive **both** over the area you'll be gluing your paper piece to **and** over the back of the piece. Be sure to overhang (at least slightly) all the edges of the support. You may also want to cover the sides if you're using a cradled board.
3. Tear a 4 ½" x 4 ½" (approximately) piece from the text page or light-colored magazine clip. If you'd prefer to construct the square from more than one piece of paper, that's fine. Just

be sure all your pieces are torn to size.

4. Center the text or light-colored piece within your background, and glue it down.
5. Tear strips (about ½” wide) from a magazine piece that coordinates with your background. This will be the inner frame. Glue the pieces in place.
6. Let dry for about an hour.
7. With the wide flat brush, apply a light coat of gesso unevenly over the center square. Concentrate it in the area where the hare will be. This will provide a base for the hare drawing.
8. At this point, set your piece aside to dry overnight.
9. Trace the hare on a piece of tracing paper. Turn the paper over and scribble over all the lines (where they show through from the other side) with the 2B pencil.
10. Being sure your piece is thoroughly dry, tape the tracing of the hare in place over the gesso'd portion of the central square. Using a stylus or a ball point pen, go over all the lines of the hare. This will transfer the design to the gesso'd central square. Remove the tape and tracing paper.
11. Color the hare with your colored pencils:
 - a. Add a layer of white over the muzzle, and inside the ears. Add a layer of Yellow Ochre over the rest, but keep the color very light on the chest. These will be the final colors in the lightest areas of the hare.
 - b. Color the iris of the eye Chrome Yellow. Use the fine line black paint pen to color the pupil but leave a white highlight dot. Add the lines around the edges of the eyeball and in the corners of the eye. Blacken the sliver of the left eye. This barely shows.
 - c. Now add successively darker colors. Each time you switch to the next darker color, the areas on which you will be placing it will be smaller than the last. Add Brown Ochre next. This will go everywhere but the chest, the top of the head, the forward edge of the right (as you face the piece) ear, and the highlight area of the cheek.
 - d. Burnt Sienna is next. It should go on the chest under the chin and cheek, along the right edge of the head and body, the back on the left side of the body, the center of the head, and the outside and edges of both ears.

- e. Now switch to **Walnut Brown**. Keep this color in the darker areas. Also use **Walnut Brown** to color the lines of the nostrils and mouth, and to soften the upper edge of the black line above the eye.
 - f. For the darkest darks, use **Dark Sepia**.
 - g. Add a little bit of **Dark Flesh** to the inside of the ears. Go easy with this color. Finally, add a teensy bit of **Pompeiiian Red** in the deepest part of the right (as you're facing the piece) ear and the forward corner of the eye.
 - h. Use **Cold Grey III** in the shadow areas of the ears, behind the muzzle, and beneath the chin.
 - i. Add shadows to the lower parts of the muzzle with **Light Phthalo blue**.
 - j. Outline the hare with the black or brown pen. Also, draw tiny hairs along the shadow sides of the hare.
 - k. With the white fine-line **Posca** pen, add a highlight to the eye, some brightness to the highlight (top edges) of the muzzle, and highlights to the chest hair. Draw the whiskers and the white hairs in the ears.
12. Now it's time to embellish your piece.
13. Cut tiny leaves and flowers from your magazine snippets. Try various placements and when you find the one you like, glue them in place. In the video I put a branch climbing up the piece just to the right side of the hare, then added a flower and a few leaves on her head. But feel free to be creative with your placement.
14. Optionally, use **Posca** pens and/or dabs of acrylic paint for random accents, decorative motifs, or a decorative border around the central square. I used a **Krylon Gold Leafing Pen** for a border around the edge of the piece.
15. Optionally, use a 01 black or brown waterproof pen to add accents to the flowers, leaves, and hare.
16. Test your black or brown pen to be sure it's waterproof. Make marks on a piece of scrap paper. Let them dry. Brush over them with matte medium to be sure the lines don't run. If they do, you need to seal your piece. To do so, spray it with 2 or 3 light coats of **Krylon Workable Fixatif** and let it dry.

17. **Optional:** You may want to add text, such as inspiring words or a phrase. You can write, stamp, or collage your text.
18. When everything's dry seal it with either a light coat of matte gel medium **OR** a coat of water-based varnish.
19. To finish your piece:
 - a. **If** you used paper for a support, cut it to size and pop it into your frame. You're done!
 - b. **If** you used a flat wood pane (not a cradled panel, use the matte gel medium and wide flat brush to adhere the scrapbook or wrapping paper piece to cover the back side of your piece. The scrapbook or wrapping paper piece should be larger than 8" x 8". Once the adhesive is dry, trim the excess from the edges with a kraft knife.
 - c. **If** you used a board for support and didn't collage over the edges, paint the edges with a coordinating color of acrylic paint.
 - d. **If** you used a board for support and want to be able to hang it on the wall, Cut a piece of ribbon 24" long and tie a bow in the center. Secure the knot in the center of the bow with either a generous dollop of matte gel medium on the back or a few stitches (this is probably the better method.) Decide how long the ends of the bow should be to act as a hanger for your piece and cut them to length (take into account that you will need about 4" on each end for the portions that you'll glue to the back of the board. Glue the ends in place and let the glue dry. You're done!

Links to the videos

Guardian Hare part 1 23 min 34 sec Materials and the background collage

<https://vimeo.com/726784394>

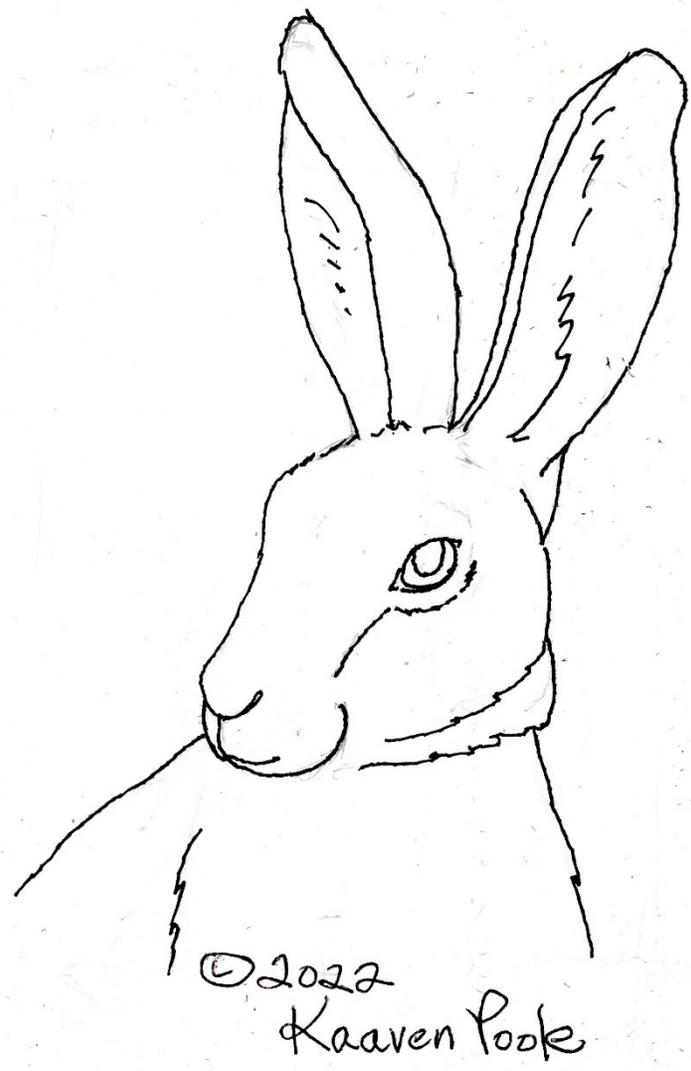
Guardian Hare part 2 23 min 27 sec Drawing the Hare

<https://vimeo.com/726577243>

Guardian Hare part 3 10 min 29 sec Finishing

<https://vimeo.com/728013315>

- white F
-  yellow ochre D
-  brown ochre F
-  burnt sienna F
-  walnut brown F
-  dark sepia F
-  chrome yellow F
-  dark flesh F
-  Pompeian Red F
-  Cold Gray III F
-  Light Anthrazo Blue



D = Derwent Drawing Pencil
 F = Faber-Castell Polychromos