

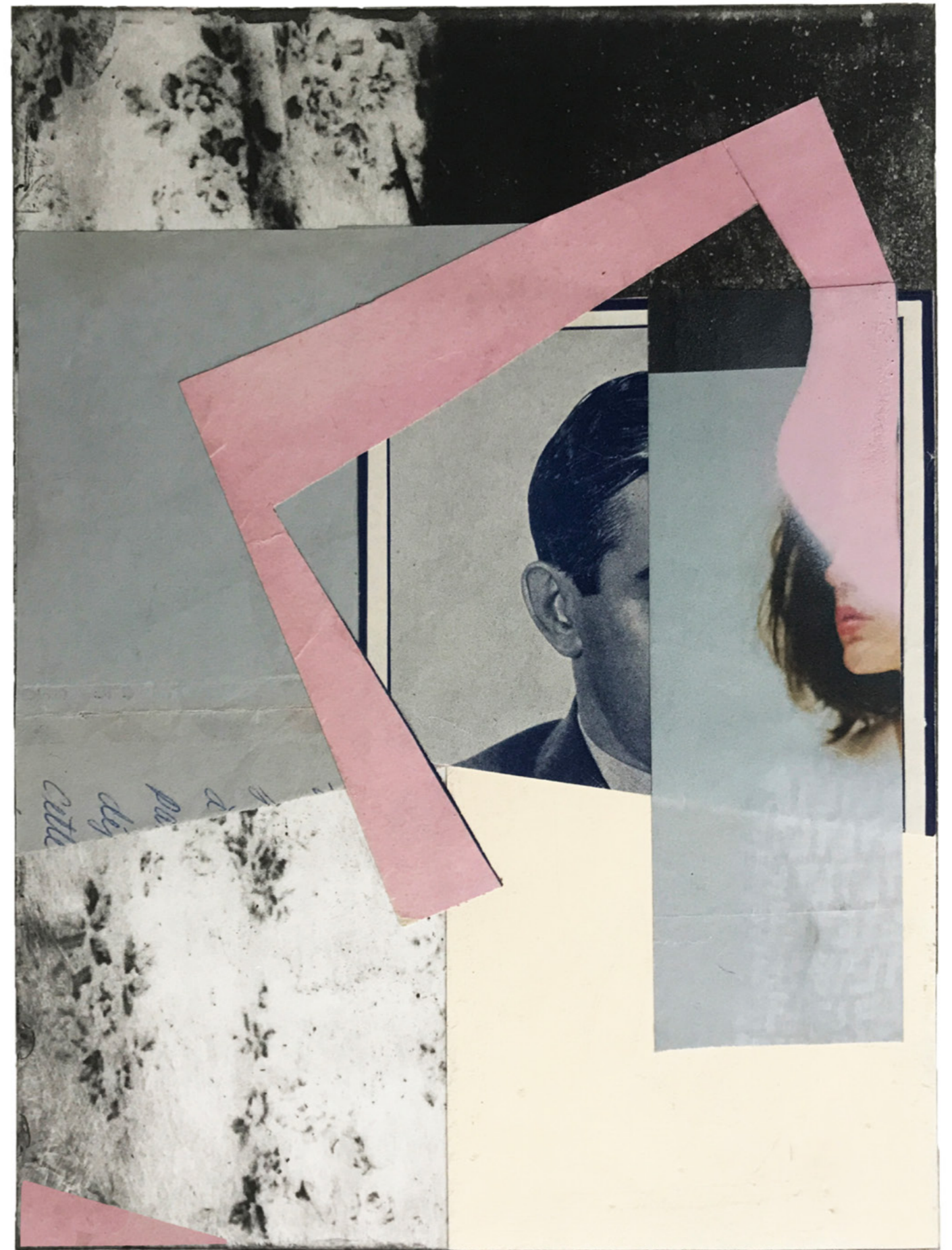
# 10Q

10 QUESTIONS WITH:

## Laurence Briat

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Residing in the South of France, **Laurence Briat** uses a range of techniques from monotype to engraving to create her nostalgic mixed media collages. We were intrigued to find out more, so we sent Laurence **10 questions** about her work and practice to answer in her own time. Here are her answers...



Above : Broken Frame



Top Right : Wilderness  
Bottom Right : Someone

## 01. When and how did you first get into collage?

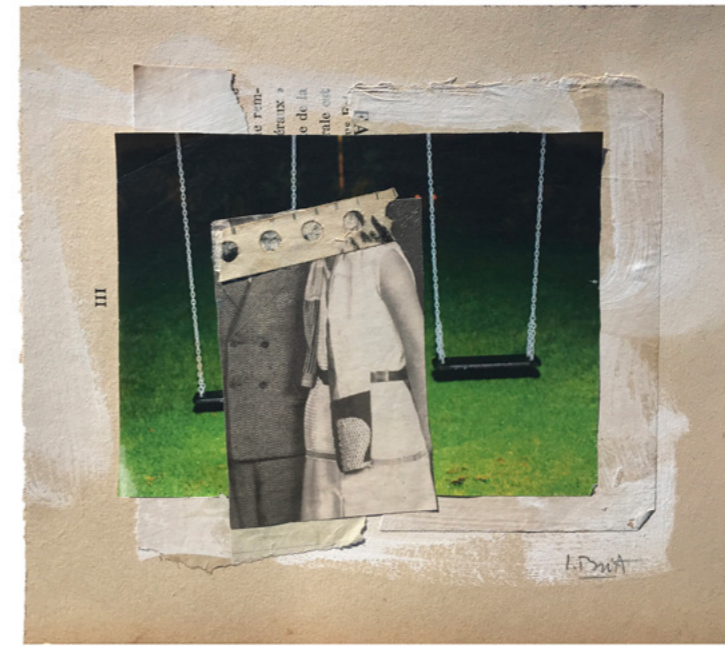
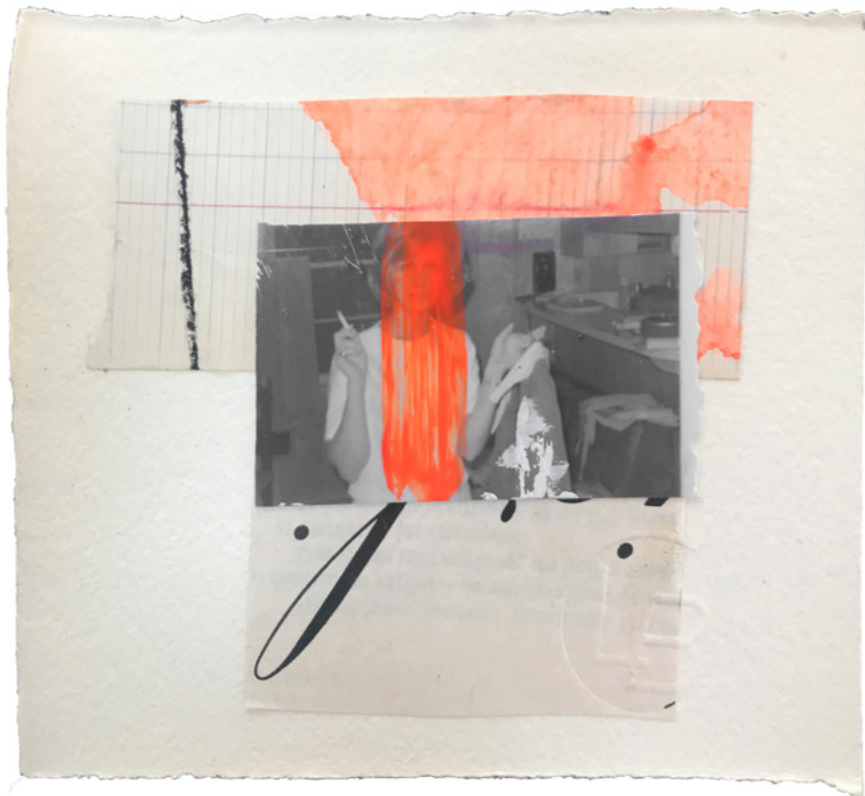
My artistic practice has always been diverse: painting, drawing, engraving, monotype...I love mixing media. Gluing allows me to fuse everything. Over the years, collage has gradually and naturally established itself at the first place in my work.

## 02. How would you describe your approach to collage and your specific style?

I work without preconceived ideas, without worrying about the result. My approach is intuitive, I observe what is happening. The idea and the atmosphere are created gradually. Sometimes it is very fast, often I do it, undo it, redo it – I start again and again.

I am very interested in textures, the tactile side of collages. The way I mix so many techniques is part of my artistic signature. My work is also marked by rigorous compositions, radical cuts and interruptions. I like to leave gaps. For me they give a visual impact to my collages. What is hidden makes the image enigmatic and intriguing.





Top Left : Brainstorming  
Bottom Left : Veil  
Right : Playground  
Next Page : Society Game

### 03. What would be your artistic statement in terms of what you're seeking to achieve in your work?

My work is focused on the human presence, its fragility. Time, disappearance, memory and uncertainty are at the heart of my concerns. I want to make images that suggest more than they show and act as story triggers.

Simplification and clarity are what I am looking for. I would like to do something simple, but rich at the same time. I always try to express more with less.

### 04. What do you want the viewer to get from your work?

I seek to create an image that first catches the viewer's eye. But I do not think too much about the viewer during the process of creation. I am, however, glad when people tell me that my images echo with their own experiences or emotions, and summon personal memories.

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*My approach is intuitive, I observe what is happening. The idea and the atmosphere are created gradually. Sometimes it is very fast, often I do it, I undo, I redo, I start again and again...*

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## **05.** Who or what are your biggest influences and why?

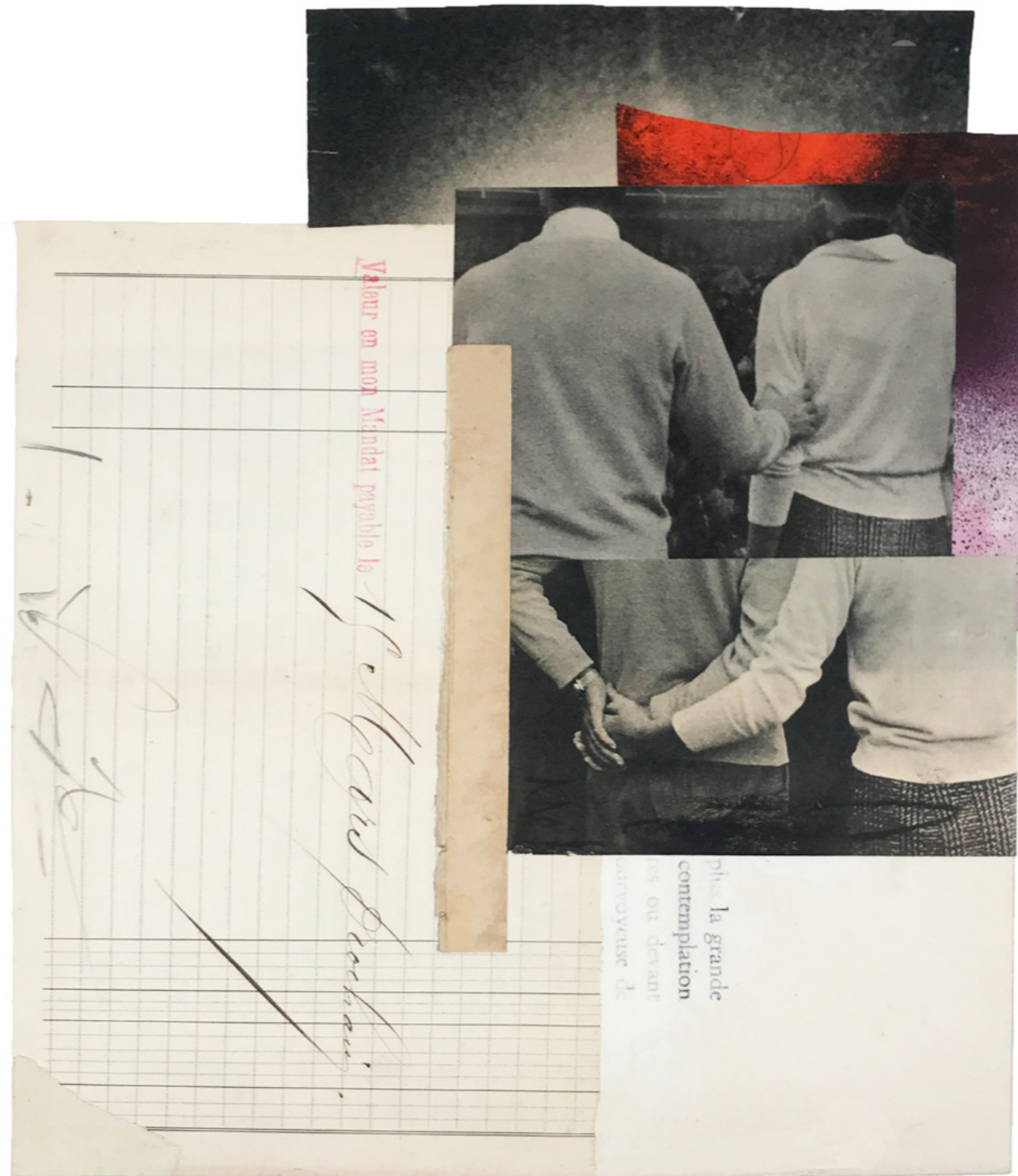
I was very inspired by John Stezaker. The first time I saw his work - it was quite a while ago - I was fascinated. He was the first to manipulate images so radically. It gave me freedom to appropriate and to mistreat images of others. I like the precision of his work and his irony.

I've also studied the works of the collage pioneers : Kurt Schwitters, Rauschenberg, Richard Hamilton and Jacques Villeglé.

## **06.** What ambitions do you have for your art - are there directions you'd like to move in?

To invent new forms, to experiment, to discover new ways of practice, these are my ambitions for now. Because there's nothing I like to do as much as work, I want to continue to evolve my work, improve it and above all, keep it alive.





Next Page  
 Left : Fitting room  
 Top Right : Loneliness  
 Bottom Right : Disjointed

## 07. What do you use as your materials and where do you source them from?

The search for materials is an important and exciting part of the work of a collagist. I love to hunt for old papers and magazines. I like to mix them with contemporary fragments. I am always looking for new material even though my studio is already full of it. I often get it from people who know my passion.

## 08. Can you choose one of your pieces and give us an insight into the story behind it?

*Emprise* (left) is a piece which is quite representative of what I do right now: simple composition, a narrow colour palette but very bright, use of old papers (here bank paper). I find it resonates with current issues and has humour in the title. I turned around long enough and it was done in seconds, and it's great when it goes that way.

**09.** Please finish this sentence :  
Collage is...

*... my favourite game.*

**10.** What's the one question  
we should have asked you,  
but didn't?

***What are the feelings that  
cross you during work ?***

To which the answer is...curiosity, joy, freedom, tranquillity, calm, impatience,  
excitement and enthusiasm. I feel absorbed, out of the world. I get discouraged  
when everything goes wrong and rewarded when the story comes out.





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*I want to continue to evolve my work, improve it and above all keep it alive.*



Left : Dissolving Memory 5

Right : Link

## *Quickfire questions*

**Analogue or digital?**

Mostly analogue (digital sometimes)

**Studio or house?**

Studio

**Small or large format?**

All kind.

**Cut or tear?**

Both

**Music or silence?**

I appreciate both depending upon my mood

**Plan or intuition?**

Intuition.

**Hannah Höch or Robert Rauschenberg?**

Robert Rauschenberg

**Standing or sitting?**

Standing

**Glue stick or medium?**

Medium of various types according to the qualities of the paper.

**Sell or keep?**

Sell!

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You can see more of Laurence's work on her website: [laurencebriat.com](http://laurencebriat.com) and on her Instagram page: [@laurencebriat](https://www.instagram.com/laurencebriat)