



## Mood boards

Mood boards are a way to gather and organize ideas. The collages of images, text, and sometimes even physical items help to focus artists and designers on an idea or feeling about a topic. They can also be used to communicate these ideas and feelings to others. Mood boards can be organized around nearly anything, including but not limited to color, material, theme, shapes, or even location. In this project, you will pick a message that inspires you, find images to represent that message, and create a mood board.

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## Learning objectives

- Select, analyze, and interpret visual work for presentation
- Use digital tools to source images
- Communicate a message visually

## Materials needed

- A device – laptop, computer, phone, or tablet that allows for internet searching
- Internet access
- Log in for Milanote.com

### **Step 1: Pick a message that inspires you.**

There are so many things happening in the world right now, it will likely be very easy to find a message that inspires you, or that you care deeply about. Use this as your starting point.

### **Step 2: Create a log in on Milanote.com.**

Milanote.com is the tool that you will use to create your mood board. It is free to create a profile. Once you do, follow the directions to set up your mood board template. It's pretty easy!

### **Step 3: Search for visuals and make your mood board!**

This is the best part. Scour the internet for ways that you can represent your message visually. Is it an idea that makes you angry? How can you say that via color? Is it something that is joyful? How can you say that with texture? Is it a message that is urgent? How can say that with shapes? Be creative, and don't be afraid to take risks. This is an opportunity to test out how images can work together not necessarily to tell a story but to communicate broad ideas.

### **Want to keep going?**

- Share your mood board with someone else and see if your mood board communicated the message that you intended.
- Using your mood board as inspiration, create a piece of art or design something. Is it a poster? A photograph? A book? A dress? A website? How can you take this inspiration and make it into something else?

When you're done with your project, take a picture and share it with us too! You can tag us on social media (@designmuseumchi on Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter) or email us at [info@designchicago.org](mailto:info@designchicago.org). We're looking forward to seeing your work!