

FOUND PAPERS LIBRARY

Your go-to guide for a categorized list of found paper ideas in mixed-media art

1. EVERYDAY PAPERS

1. **Recycled papers** (envelopes, leaflets, packaging wrap—varied weights & surfaces)
2. **Brown Paper Bags** (bring a raw, earthy element to your pages)
3. **Used Palette Papers** / Deli papers (swirled remnants of mixed paints)
4. **Underpapers** (messy, paint-covered paper you place underneath your work to catch drips and stroke)
5. **Dry Paint Wipes/Rags** (Paper towels or wipes stained from cleaning brushes)
6. **Coffee-dyed papers & fabrics** (aged stains on tissue, old clothes or sheets add mood and tone)
7. **Used Tea Bag Paper** (delicate, translucent paper with naturally aged stains)
8. **Packaging from food or products** (branding, textures, or transparent windows for contrast)

2. PRINTED DOCUMENTS

1. **Old Bills or Receipts** (typed numbers, barcodes, and faded ink add a gritty, real-world texture)
2. **Old Book Pages** (Plain or Marked) - Vintage paper with aged tones and serif fonts adds timeless character. Use - clean pages or ones with ink marks and paint stains for extra depth.
3. **Magazine pages** (patterns, figures, faces, or textured backgrounds)
4. **Sheet music, ledger pages**, graph paper, lined notebook (ranged linework)
5. **Sewing patterns or instruction sheets** (thin paper with dashed lines & typewritten text)
6. **Calendar pages or planners** (dates, grids, and numbers create visual rhythm)
7. **Unused printout pages** (printer test sheets, mis-prints or scrapped pages)

3. EPHEMERA

1. **Vintage ephemera** (postcards, old letters, retro ads, catalogs bring timeworn charm)
2. **Handwritten notes or letters** (cursive scripts, scribbles, add a human, personal layer)
3. **Postage stamps & postcards** (small focal points)
4. **Transit maps, old bus/train/flight tickets** (folds and printed lines make great texture)
5. **Movie stubs or concert tickets** (nostalgic ephemera)
6. **Film negatives** / photo booth strips (dark transparency)
7. **Textile tags, clothing labels** (tiny printed fabric bits)
8. **Gift tags & greeting card cut-outs** (small-scale focal piece)