

An ARTful Hour

Art Trading Cards!

May 2010 with Heidi Stoddart

What are Art Trading Cards? (ATC's)

Art Trading Cards are miniature works of art that measure 2.5" x 3.5" (or 64 x 89 mm), the same dimensions as standard 'collector' or 'trading' cards (eg. baseball, hockey, etc.). Art Trading Cards can be created, collected and/or traded, but are not intended for sale.

Part of the Appeal of Art Trading Cards...

- Small Format = approachable and not too intimidating
= not a huge time commitment
= don't require huge amounts of art materials
- Creativity = once the size is established, the sky's the limit!
= explore many mediums and/or techniques!
= create one-of-a-kind, limited editions or a series on a topic/theme!
= follow your own instincts, interests and ideas!

1. Line

Materials:

- "Art Is..." by Bob Raczka
- Card stock (*110lb; 250 shts; \$16.75 from Staples*)
- fine black markers
- pencil crayons

2. Line & Pattern

Materials:

- Card stock (*110lb; 250 shts; \$16.75 from Staples*)
- fine black markers
- pencil crayons

3. Tempera and "Stamping" with a paintbrush

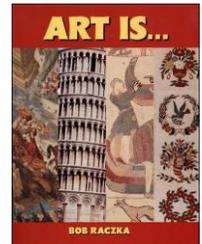
Materials:

- Card stock (*110lb; 250 shts; \$16.75 from Staples*)
- Tempera paint
- Small 'square' paintbrushes
- Palettes (eg. small paper plates)
- Water containers
- Paper Towel
- Colour Wheel

4. Collage

Materials:

- Card stock (*110lb; 250 shts; \$16.75 from Staples*)
- White glue
- Scissors
- Coloured construction paper; Old Magazines, books, calendars, catalogues...; Painted paper



5. Create Your Own... (variety of media choices)

Materials:

- Card stock (110lb; 250 sheets; \$16.75 from Staples)
- Variety of media choices (eg. black marker, pencil, pastels, coloured pencil, charcoal pencil, markers, watercolour, tempera paint, glue, scissors, glue sticks, construction paper, painted paper, tissue paper, old magazines...)

A Brief History of Art Trading Cards

Retrieved May 17, 2010, "Art Junction: A Collaborative Art Space for Teachers and Students" from <http://www.artjunction.org/atcs.php>

"Artist Trading Cards have been around for less than a decade. Yet, their historical roots can be traced back to the Mail Art and Fluxus movements of the 1960s, and even earlier to the Dadaist movement of the 1920s.

Swiss artist M. Vānci Stirnemann first developed the concept of Artist Trading Cards in 1996, when he decided to document his activities with other artists by producing a catalogue of 1,200 cards he created by hand. He exhibited the cards at his bookstore gallery in Zürich in May 1997. On the last day of the exhibit, Stirnemann invited anyone who wanted a card to create their own ATC to trade during the closing reception.

Canadian artist Chuck Stake (aka Don Mable) attended Stirnemann's exhibition that May and also participated in a Trading Session while in Zürich. Stake became very enthusiastic about ATCs and collaborated with Stirnemann to stage "The First International Biennial of Artist Trading Cards" at The New Gallery in Calgary, Canada that included 80 artists from 10 different countries. Since then, with the help of the Internet, interest in ATCs has spread around the globe.

Many artists who make ATCs use the Internet to display their cards and to locate others willing to trade cards by mail or to share ideas. However, organized face-to-face ATC sessions are, by far, the preferred means of meeting other artists and trading cards. Today, you will find ATC swap sessions happening in most major cities around the world."

Ideas, Inspiration and Getting Started...

Create an ATC to visually express something to do with or on the topic of:

Portraits/Faces, Animals, An Element or Principle of Design (eg. line, shape, colour, texture, pattern, unity, balance...), Bygone Era, Where I Live, Book Character, Family Events, Holidays, Heroes and Heroines, Favourites (music, food, sport, colour, hobbies...), Letters of the Alphabet, Seasons, Line from a poem, song or story, Numbers, Start with a Noun (person, place or thing), Start with adjective (visually express a feeling... calm, excited, furious...), a Social or Ecological theme, pay homage to a favourite artist, musician, athlete, writer, etc., create a series of four cards based on a specific topic or theme, try a 'round robin' ATC where one artist starts the card, then passes it on to someone else to add a bit, etc.

Websites:

"WikiHow – provides 11 steps to making your own Art Trading Cards"
<http://www.wikihow.com/Make-Artist-Trading-Cards>

"Artist Trading Cards"; <http://www.artist-trading-cards.ch/>

"The Artist Trading Card Committee of "The New Gallery" in Calgary, Alberta"
<http://www.artisttradingcards.org/> (-features great visuals of displays/exhibits)

"ATC's in the Classroom"; <http://www.artjunction.org/atcs.php>

"Art in Your Pocket: A Primer on Art Trading Cards"
<http://www.cedarseed.com/air/atc.html>

"Art Trader Magazine"; www.arttradermag.com

"ATC Quarterly"; www.atcquarterly.com



Set of 48 Mini-Easels available;
e-mail Heidi.Stoddart@nbed.nb.ca to borrow!