

—— Art Pack:

Collaborative Mail Art

—— By:

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The Idea: To make freestanding fold out painted sculpture in a postal collaboration, sent in a hand-made decorated envelope.

Materials you will find in this pack:

- water based paint
- paintbrush
- pair of scissors
- glue stick
- one sheet of A2 paper with a template for an envelope
- one sheet of A2 paper with templates for pop up card
- pack of stamps

You can use:

- an old jar or yoghurt pot to hold water
- a plate or plastic food container as a palette to mix the paint
- ruler (optional)

Instructions

The 3D pop up card sculpture:

1. Using a **pair of scissors**, cut out the **templates** along the solid lines. You should now have 2 long strips of paper with dashed lines marked on them.

2. Fold along the dashed lines -----

TIP: to get a smooth fold, place a **ruler** or straight edge (such as a piece of stiff card) along the line, hold it in place, and fold the paper over it. You can also fold after painting if you prefer, just make sure you can still see the dashed lines.

3. Now you have two folded structures, you can either chose to start the painting on one, or both, but keep in mind there will only be enough room for one in the envelope - think of one of them as a back-up.

4. Experiment with folding the folds back and forward, to see different ways it can stand up - for instance a concertina zig zag, a square box, a polygon (5 sided shape).

PRIMARY

The Envelope:

- 1.** Cut out the **envelope template** along the solid lines.
- 2.** Fold in along the dashed lines, you can choose to make the folds after painting if you prefer.
- 3.** Paint the inside and/or the outside of the envelope however you like, making sure there is space to write the address of the person you plan to send it to on the front. The envelope can also be collaborative if you like.
- 4.** The envelope can be sealed in a number of ways, experiment with tucking the wings into each other, or seal it with a dab of **glue** like you would with an ordinary envelope. Make sure it won't pop open in the post!
- 5.** Stick a **stamp** on it, take it to the post box and send it!

If you are not the first person to receive the card, have a look at what the person sending has contributed, and add to the card however you like with the materials provided or any materials you might have at home. You can then glue a piece of paper cut from the leftover scraps on top of your address and add the address of the person you plan to send it on to.

IDEAS FOR STARTING YOUR ARTWORK

- **Exquisite Corpse** - this is a game where you collaborate to create a character that you only reveal at the end. The person who starts draws a head and neck; anything you like - a fish, an alien, a dinosaur...or something completely made up, leaving 2 marks indicating where the shoulders should join the neck at the fold. The next person adds the body, making marks where the hips meet the legs and arms meet the hands, the next person draws the legs and hands, and the final person draws the feet. This game works best if you make sure not to look at the other people's contributions until the end and try to be as silly as possible.
- **Abstract pattern** - you could start the collaboration by painting a pattern, leaving space for others to add to it. Think about both sides of the paper - and how the pattern corresponds with the folds.
- **Comic book** - you could start a story on the first fold that others can add to. If you have a pen or pencil you could draw the outline and colour it in with the paint.
- I'm sure you have lots of your own interests and ideas that you can use as a starting point! These are just suggestions to get you thinking.