It's in the Cards!
Planning & Implementing an Artist Trading Cards Swap Program

Presented by
Holly May, Supervisory Librarian
MCCS Yuma Station Library, MCAS Yuma
What are ATCs?

Artist Trading Cards (ATCs) are miniature works of art created with the intent of swapping them with other artists.

Standard ATC size is 2.5”x3.5”.

Artists may use any heavy paper that they choose, from food packaging to playing cards.
What is the difference between ATCs and ACEOs?
What you can use to make ATCs:

- Junk mail, cardstock, playing cards, food packaging
- Scrap paper for collage
- Acrylic, gouache, or watercolor paint
- Crayons or markers
- Paper punches and tools
- Rubber or acrylic stamps
- And much, much more!
“I Only Have Eyes For You”

Mixed media
• digital images (Art Tea Life on Etsy)
• stamped bubble wrap
• pen & ink
• crayon
What to include on an ATC

**Artwork**

The Cueva de las Manos, El Pinturas, contains an exceptional assemblage of cave art, with many painted rock shelters, including a cave, with magnificent pictographies surrounded by an outstanding landscape, with the river running through a deep canyon, which were executed between 3,300 and 1,300 years ago.

It takes its name (Cave of the Hands) from the stenciled outlines of human hands in the cave, but there are also many depictions of animals, such as guanacos (Lama animals, such as guanacos, Lama guanicoe), still commonly found in the region, as well as hunting scenes that depict animals and human figures interacting in a dynamic and naturalistic manner. The entrance to the Cueva is screened by a rock wall covered by many hand stencils. Within the rock shelter itself there are five concentration of rock art. Later figures and motifs often superimposed upon those from earlier periods. The paintings come from natural mineral pigments.
Considerations for an ATC Swap

- Location
- Logistics
- Theme
- Quality of Artwork
- Age groups
Inspiration for themes

• ATCsForAll.com
  • Swap Galleries

• Chase’s Calendar of Events
  • Bat Appreciation Month, Dictionary Day, National Candy Corn Day

• Seasons of the Year

• Tied to events in program calendar
  • Summer Reading Program, Trunk or Treat, Super Kids’ Carnival

• Local/State attractions & celebrations
  • SEA LIFE Aquarium Arizona, Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, Grand Canyon National Park

• Museums & special exhibits
  • S'edav Va'aki Museum (formerly Pueblo Grande Museum), Children’s Museum of Phoenix
iREAD 2024 Summer Reading Program: “Read, Renew, Repeat”

Recycle older artwork Eric Carle-style

Carlo kept his painted tissue papers in flat file drawers, arranged by color.

Image courtesy of The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art.

https://www.carlemuseum.org/about/about-eric-carle/artistic-process
Use ATC programs to promote your library’s resources

- EBSCO eBooks
- Gale eBooks
- Gale OneFile: Fine Arts
- Gale OneFile: Popular Magazines
- Hobbies and Crafts Reference Center
- OverDrive/Libby
- PressReader

Search Terms:
- Art, Artist
- Artist Trading Cards
- Collage
- Crafting, Crafts, Crafts & Hobbies
- Drawing, How to Draw
- Hobbies
- Journaling, Junk Journaling
- Paper Arts/Paper Crafts
- Watercolor, Acrylic, Painting
(Just a few) Books on ATCs

- **The Great Library ATC Swap: How To Bring An Artist's Trading Card Swap To Your Home Town** by Robinsunne
- **1000 Artist Trading Cards: Innovative and Inspired Mixed-Media ATCs** by Patricia Bolton
- **Artist Trading Cards: An Anthology of ATCs** by Diane Michioka, et al.
- **Artist Trading Card Workshop: Create, Collect, Swap** by Bernie Berlin
(Just a few) Books on Techniques

- **1,000 Artist Journal Pages: Personal Pages and Inspiration** by Dawn DeVries Sokol
- **Artists’ Journals & Sketchbooks: Exploring and Creating Personal Pages** by Lunne Perrella
- **Collage Discovery Workshop: Make Your Own Collage Creations Using Vintage Photos, Found Objects and Ephemera** by Claudine Hellmuth
- **Collage Workshop for Kids: Rip, snip, cut, and create with inspiration from The Eric Carle Museum** by Shannon Merenstein
- **Flavor for Mixed Media: A Feast of Techniques for Texture, Color and Layers** by Mary Beth Shaw
- **The Mixed-Media Artist: Art Tips, Secrets and Dreams From Over 40 Amazing Artists** by Seth Apter
- **Shake, Rattle & Roll: Trading Cards & ATCs for Shakers, Windows, Doors, Moving Parts, Mosaics, Closures and Much More!** by Mary Secklet
- **Trading Cards Techniques & ATCs** by Lisa Vollrath, Michele Charles, and Tim Holtz
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holly.may@usmc-mccs.org