

Fun Projects

1. Mural Making

Murals are an excellent way to promote community involvement. Murals give people a voice and allow them the freedom to express themselves. They are interactive and their messages have the power to create social change because they get people talking.

Getting Started

Murals can be painted on walls, or on moveable wood or canvas.

Moveable murals have several advantages over those painted on walls.

- They do not require site permission to paint.
- If you can't find a location or permission you can still get started.
- They can be permanently hung in awkward locations (e.g. too high or dangerous) and they can always be moved to new locations.

1. Find a Location. Whether you are going to paint a mural on a wall or on wood paneling you will need to find a location before deciding on your mural design. Some potential sites include: Schools, local businesses, recreation centers, community halls, social service agencies, senior centers and community halls.

2. Decide on a theme

Begin by brainstorming mural ideas. What message do you want to communicate to your audience? To get some ideas, go for a walk around your community and check out all the murals or search the internet (check out websites below).

3. Brainstorm mural images

Once you have decided on a theme for your mural, brainstorm images that communicate the theme. Search or create drawings that display insight and creativity. You can use images from magazines, photographs and books as resources. You may wish to trace some of the images you find and photocopy them onto transparencies. Using an overhead projector (borrow one from your school) you can then trace the images from the transparencies onto your mural space.

4. Decide on a paint surface. If you are creating a moveable mural you may decide to use wood paneling. The larger the panel, the thicker it should be. If the mural is going to be hung outside and exposed to the elements, the panel should be at least 3/4" thick. If the mural is going to be located inside, a 1/4" is alright. There are numerous grades and qualities of plywood at the hardware store. Go for something economical, but don't let a few dollars keep you from buying a better piece of wood. Stay away from particle board and heavily bowed plywood. If your unsure, ask someone who works with wood to help.

5. Prepare painting surface.

- a. Sand the wood surface
- b. paint on two base coats of white paint.
- c. Using a pencil and an overhead projector trace the outline of the mural images onto the painting surface.

6. Ready, set...paint!

Divide the mural into sections and assign individuals to each section with specific directions. Fill in the outlined images like a giant coloring book. Remember to always decide on the color of the images before painting. Once the mural is finished, apply two coats of a clear varnish to protect it from the elements.

You're now ready to make final arrangements for the mural to be hung.

Have a mural unveiling event and invite the media. Have one of your team members discuss the mural and its significance. Do not forget to take photos or video footage to document the mural making process.

Materials Needed

* **Plywood panels:** Available at larger hardware stores and retail wood stores. Choose from sizes such as 8'x4', 4'x4' and 2'x4'.

* **Acrylic paints and paint brushes/rollers:** Available at art stores and hardware stores.

* **art supplies:** crayons, markers, rulers, pencils, scrap paper and tracing paper.

* **overhead projector and transparencies (borrowed from school- ask teacher for permission)**

Resources

For some cool ideas check out these websites...

- <http://www.artlex.com/ArtLex/p/publicart.html>
- http://www.canadiancontent.net/dir/Top/Arts/Visual_Arts/Painting/Frescoes,_Mural_s,_Faux-Finishes/
- <http://www.sparcmurals.org/>

References

Information gathered from <http://www.kuidaosumi.com/murals/muralguide.html>

2. T-shirt Printing

Printing T-shirts

This is the cheapest and easiest way to print stencils on shirts. It's an alternative to silk screening which can get expensive with all the materials and equipment.

What you will need:

- **Stencil(s)**
Plastic stencils work the best. They adhere to the fabric and prevent ink from bleeding. **For those who are daring and creative**, you may wish to create your own stencil. If you go this route, draw your design onto thick paper, using shading and cut out with an Exacto-blade the negative space (area that's shaded). The areas that are cut out become filled in with stain (e.g. paint).
- **T-shirt(s)**
You can get a blank t-shirt from just about anywhere. If you don't have an old one at home, try a second hand store (e.g. Salvation Army). The thicker the shirt, the better. Wash your t-shirt before beginning to avoid shrinkage.
- **The Stain (ink/paint)**
Textile medium which is mixed 50/50 with normal acrylic paint works great and it's easy to use. The medium helps to stain the fabric with whatever color of acrylic paint you mix in. The textile medium can be found at a craft or hardware store. You can also order it on-line at various art supply stores such as, <http://www.opusframing.com/>
- **Ready to Rock n'Roll**
 1. Lay your t-shirt on a flat hard surface (e.g. desk, hard book)
 2. Tape your stencil to your shirt using tape and mask around the edges to stop any unwanted marks.
 3. Mix your paint and medium together. Use the sponge roller (about 50mm in width) to fill in the stencil by rolling paint over top. Take your time to get a feel for the rolling. Push gently so you don't apply too much paint at once.
 4. Peel the stencil off carefully. Don't leave the stencil on too long, as the textile medium begins to dry fast

and becomes sticky. Voila, you've printed your own t-shirt!

5. Once the paint has dried you will need to color-fast the print by placing a clean piece of cloth over the stenciled image and ironing over it. Repeat this a few times to really set the print into the fabric. To keep your image from fading, wash your shirt inside out in cold water.

Reference

<http://www.stencilrevolution.com/tutorials/tutorialsview.php?id=2>

Resources in Print:

- The Great T-Shirt Book: Make Your Own Spectacular, One-Of-A-Kind Designs (Paperback) by [Carol Taylor](#)
- The Ultimate T-Shirt Book: Creating Your Own Unique Designs (Paperback) by [Deborah Morgenthal](#)
- Tie Dye! The How-To Book (Paperback) by [Virginia Gleser](#)
- Batik Tie Dyeing Stenciling Silk Screen Block Printing: The Hand Decoration of Fabrics (Paperback) by [Francis J. Kafka](#)
- The Complete Book of Silk Screen Printing Production (Paperback) by [J. I. Biegeleisen](#)
- Generation T : 121 Ways to Transform a T-Shirt (Paperback) by [Megan Nicola](#)

Other Creative Options

- **Why not spruce up an old t-shirt by sewing on or applying lace,**

- grommets, sequins, beads, buttons, broches, embroidery, etc. You just need a needle and thread and lots of ideas!**
- **If you have a design and would like a bunch of shirts professionally printed here are some sites to check out:**
<http://www.getbold.com/home.html>
<http://www.customink.com/>
<http://zazzle.com/>
 - **Make your own t-shirt with computer transfer paper.**
Here's what you'll need:
 - T-shirt
 - Inkjet Transfer Paper (bought at office supply stores or online - search "transfer paper").
 - Image (photograph or artwork)
 - Software (e.g. Photoshop)
 - Scanner, if image is not already in computer
 - Computer and Inkjet Printer
 - 1 piece Cardboard
 - Home Iron or heat press

1. Scan your photograph, artwork or image into your computer or use an image from the internet. Adjust and crop the image. Remember that the image will be reversed in the transfer process so you'll have to flip the image.
2. Print (*using inkjet printer) the image onto transfer paper (read instructions on transfer paper to make sure it's the right side).
3. Cut out the printed image.
4. Preheat the iron at the hottest setting (cotton, NO STEAM). Place your t-shirt on a hard, flat surface and insert a piece of cardboard to separate the front of the shirt from the back.
5. Position the transfer image side down on your shirt. Press firmly with iron on top of transfer paper. Let cool, then lift off transfer paper. Your image should appear on the t-shirt!

Check out this website for more ideas:
http://desktoppub.about.com/od/transfers/l/aa_transfers.htm

How to **Make** a Zine

Do you want to be heard? **Do you have something to say** but don't know how to say it? Zines are a great ways to make yourself heard. Zines (pronounced 'zeens') are small **independent** magazines. They are **cheap, easy, and FUN** because you can make your Zine into **whatever you want**. Individual touch is what will make your Zine stand out (so why not give it some **funk!**) **There are NO RULES for making a zine.** This is just to give you an idea of where to begin.

Let's Get Started.....

1. **Collecting the Contents.**

You may want to gather contents/submissions whenever you **feel inspired**. This will allow you to create a **free form Zine** (different subject on every page). You can also give your Zine a theme or base it on a **subject**. With this in mind you would gather **material** surrounding this theme. You can also **ask your friends** if they want to help or submit a piece of work. **Remember, Zines are fun** so don't get bogged down in the feeling that you **HAVE** to come up with something if you can't. If you're not inspired, **let it go**, and come back to it later.

2. **Putting it together!**

Once you have collected all your contents for the Zine you'll have to **decide how you want it to look**. What is the title and **size**? How many pages will it have? How will you display the work? Layout everything on **each page** and glue/tape to prepare **your master copy**. When designing, think about each page by itself. Consider how they will all work together. **Take some time** on writing and designing. Remember, you are on your own time line so **pay attention to little details** and make your Zine a **true work of art!** Don't forget to edit your work (e.g. spelling). There are many ways to do this so **be creative!** Remember to number the pages... **it makes everything easier.**

Suggestions: for a 10 page Zine, you will need five pages folded in half and stapled in the middle. Think about the size (8.5x11 is the standard paper size). Standard paper folded in half will be 8.5x5.5 (**is this what YOU want?**) **USE YOUR IMAGINATION!!**

3. **Copying and Distributing**

How many booklets do you want to copy? **How much will it cost?** Do you want to pay for **color**? Once you have all your copies made, fold and fasten them. **Imagination** goes a long way!

Who will you give your Zine to? (E.g. friends, randoms, co-workers) You may wish to leave them at community centers, coffee shops, **bookstores**, music stores, Band offices, non-profit organizations, **youth centers**, etc.... **ALWAYS ASK FIRST!** Sometimes you may wish to charge a **small fee** for your Zine (e.g. \$1) to cover printing costs. Be sure to **keep a copy or the original on hand**. You never know when you're going to need to print more copies. Use peoples feedback to **make the next Zine even better**. Impress others with your creativity, originality, and independence.

**Go to your local library and check out books on Zines
and other Zines**

And check out: www.zinebook.com

