
ART FROM HERE

INCLUDED IN THIS KIT:

activity guide

stamped postcard

watercolor pencils

pencil sharpener

collage materials

glue stick

WHAT IS A POSTCARD?

Postcards are a fun way to get a message to someone far away. When a postcard arrives at its destination through the postal service, the message can be held in someone's hands—there's not even an envelope to open! A postcard is usually a piece of thick paper, typically rectangle, and is meant for making messages and mailing without an envelope. Sometimes postcards are made of materials such as wood, copper, or EVEN coconuts!

HISTORY OF POSTCARDS

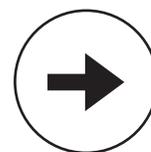
Sending and collecting postcards was popular in the 19th and 20th centuries as an easy and quick way for people to communicate. Postcards often had pictures showing the natural landscape and buildings, gardens, parks, cemeteries, and tourist sites. These pictures were very special during a time when there was no internet and newspapers did not have many pictures. Postcard photographers took pictures of major events to print onto new postcards, and people used the postcards to keep in touch with their friends and family. Postcards were a lot like social media before the internet.

MAIL ART

A lot of people began using postcards to make artworks in the 1960s to mail to other artists as fun projects. Mail art as a tradition peaked in the 1990s, and afterward, collective art projects began to move onto the internet.

Mail art can be made from all kinds of materials including postcards, paper, collaged found or recycled images and objects, stamps, paint, fabric, or anything else that an artist can imagine. Mail art can be a picture of something, an interesting design, a written poem, or even written instructions. Whatever an artist can imagine!

Mail art was often collected into exhibitions of artists from all over the world. Usually, a mail art show has no jury or judges, no entry fee, and all works are exhibited. The organizers keep all of the mail art for their collection and in return create a catalogue to share with all participating artists.



WHAT IS A PORTAL?

A portal is an entrance or a point of connection. Whenever an artist makes something, they are making a portal. Sometimes a portal is a kind of window giving us a look into another place, sometimes it is a gateway that you can walk through or click through on a computer. Sometimes the place on the other side of the portal is real, sometimes it is not. Anytime we look through a portal, we gain a new perspective. Some examples of a portal are a doorway, a bridge, a tv, a computer, a phone, a book, your imagination, etc.

QUESTIONS TO THINK ABOUT:

Is your portal to a place that you want to look at?

How close or far away is this place? Are you there?

What kind of place is it?

Is it a real place or an imagined place?

Is your portal a window or a door that you can walk through?

What makes your place unique?

CREATING YOUR PORTAL

Now you're ready to make your portal postcard! What do you want to share? Remember it can be a small detail or a big idea. Your artwork will help us get to wherever you want to take us.

Create your portal by drawing, painting, or collaging something on the front of the postcard. Collaging means puzzling together different materials to create an image. The colored pencils in this kit can be used to draw or paint with—just add water with your brush. Feel free to add paper, fabric, or found materials by tearing, cutting, or changing them any way you need to create your artwork. As long as you don't make the postcard any bigger, you can add any other materials not included in this kit that would help capture your idea.

On the back please:

- Write a short sentence explaining what you have created.
- Print your name, school, and grade in the top lefthand corner
- Mail back to the Tarble by **Friday, April 23, 2021**

If you want to take a picture before dropping the postcard in the mail, feel free to post to social media and tag us! @TheTarble #TheTarble #ArtFromHere #PostcardPortal

Keep an eye out for the virtual exhibition of all the postcards in summer 2021 at www.tarbleartscenter.org. Send any questions our way: tarbleprograms@eiu.edu.

All postcards will be kept in the Tarble collection and not returned.

We can't wait to see what you make!