

This booklet was created for anyone who is interested in ATC trading. Permission is granted to copy and share. It was written by LuAnn Pepperwood for the "Art for All" events that took place every Saturday in January, 2023 at the Topeka Art Guild. The booklet has been revised several times.

Feel free to adapt this minizine to YOUR needs. This last page can be changed to include your contact information.

For more information, see the blog:
<https://pepperwoodatcs.wordpress.com/>



The ABC's of ATCs



A slightly verbose manual for anyone who wants to make Artist Trading Cards!

PAT: Pick a Theme
RAK: Random Act of Kindness, in the ATC world, it usually involves sending a free card to someone... for ANY reason!

Series: A number of related (often nearly identical) cards. It is considered polite to let other traders know a card is a part of a series.
Sleeves: Most traders expect to receive cards in protective plastic sleeves.

Triptych: - A grouping of three cards, often joined together in some way that, when folded out or opened, reveal a whole picture.
WIP: Work in Progress

HP = Hand-Painted
HD = Hand-Drawn

country, URLs, Instagram names, and email addresses are often included. It is also nice to give some information about the media used to make the card, but this is not required. DO include credit if you copied an image made by someone else.
Copyright: This is a tricky issue. Since ATCs are not sold, many people copy anything they can find on the internet. Although they are not likely to be "caught," artists should respect the intellectual property of other artists.
Credit: However... artists often learn by copying or making "studies" of other works of art. Here are some examples of good "credit lines."
"Inspired by Monet's Waterlilies"
"Based on a popular tattoo design by X on Pixabay."
"Drawn from a photo posted by X on Facebook"

ATC Terminology
ATART: All Types of Art
A-Thon: a group of artists getting together for a select number of days to create a certain type of art. The cards are posted and traded to other players in the thread. (from ATCSforAll.com)
ACEO: Art Cards Editions and Originals (These are sold)
AKC: Artist Keeping Card: my own abbreviation for the cards that I make and cannot part with! Usually I keep the first successful card with a new medium or technique!
Back of the card: The artist's name and the date the card was created should appear on the back of a card. Many people also include their city, state, and fun to be "in the know..."
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Making ATCs could be considered a form of "Performance Art." The art is completed when a card is traded!
 I hope the "Art For All" event at the Topeka Art Guild gives many people a chance to make and trade ATCs.

ATC: The Rules

There are only two rules for an ATC:

- An ATC is 2.5" by 3.5"
- An ATC is never sold.

2.5" x 3.5" cards made for sale are called ACEOs!

I use the word **trade** for an exchange that happens when two people agree to trade cards, in person or online.
 A second kind of card exchange is called a **swap**. Swaps can be organized in many different ways. Often, a swap host will announce a theme and a deadline. Artists mail cards to the host and the host decides which cards go to which recipients.
 Trades or swaps can also be "blind." Each person gets a surprise.
 ATCs can be gifted. They are usually called "RAKs," (Random Acts of Kindness.)