

Artist Trading Cards

Artist Trading Cards (AKA ATCs) are fun to make and collect!

The Swiss artist M. Vänçi Stirnemann is recognized as the “father” of ATCs. In 1997 he created a conceptual art project titled “Artist Trading Cards (ATCs)”

Stirnemann called it a Collaborative Cultural Performance.

In 1996, the artist began making small artworks the size of commercial trading cards. An exhibition of 1200 of Stirnemann's cards ran at his second-hand bookshop and gallery in Zürich, Switzerland. (April 23 and May 31, 1997)

The exhibition ended with a trading session. The project was intended to allow people from different backgrounds to participate in an ongoing art project, which was not part of the art market. Selling or buying ATCs clearly contradicts the initial idea. Instead, people would meet at trading sessions and exchange their art work in a democratic face to face situation.

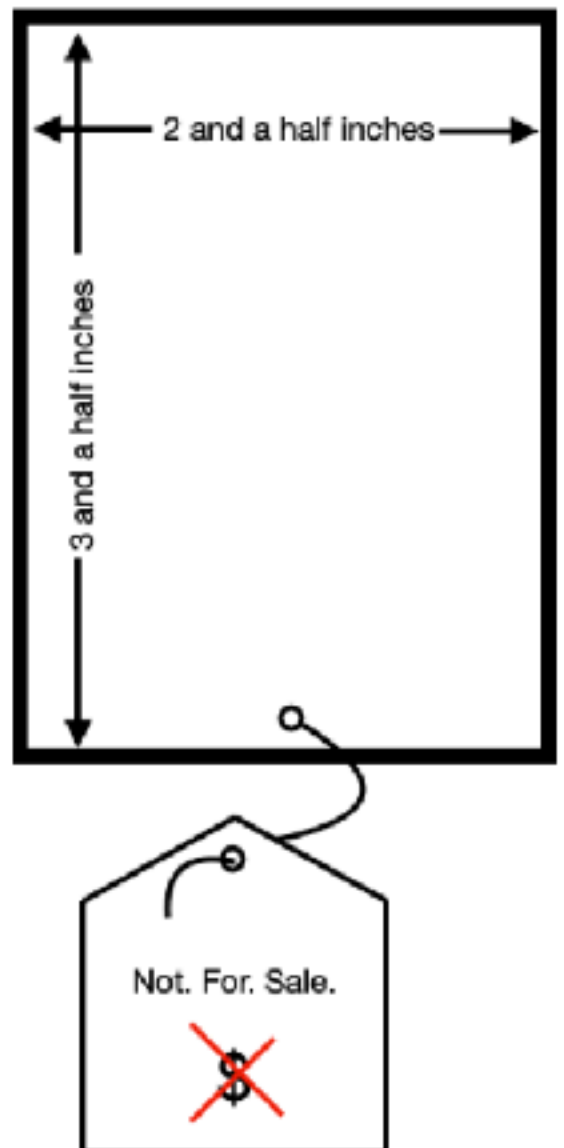
—paraphrased from Wikipedia

What Makes an ATC and ATC?

Two Rules

Artist Trading Cards must be 2.5" x 3.5"

Artist Trading Cards must never be sold. The **art** is in the trading.



What goes on the Back? *

Most ATCs have the artist's name and the date on the back of the card.

Children are encouraged to put first names only.

TITLE:

Artist:

Date:

Medium:

Other information to include, if desired:

email address

Instagram name

website URL or QR code

notes about the process

credit for photos used in creation of the card

more art

Trade VS. Swap

While the words “Trade” and “Swap” are synonyms, most ATC artists differentiate between the two words.

A trade occurs when two people see each other's cards and agree to trade.

A ***swap*** requires more than two people.

There are many different ways to swap. On the website ATCsFA, a host announces a topic, participants sign up and send cards to the host. The host then mixes the cards and sends them to the participants.

Most ATC trading occurs online. There are groups on Facebook and MeWe. Some people trade on Instagram.



ATC Artist Trading Cards

Public group · 1.0K members

If you are fortunate to attend a “live” ATC event, you will have the opportunity to trade in person!

Try It!

Make an ATC today!

Materials, examples,
inspiration, support...
everything that you
need is right here!

(And you can do a
trade OR a swap....)