

Artists Trading Cards

Some basic information

This information comes from a number of websites. There are a number of excellent websites you can consult. Just google 'Artist Trading Cards'.

Artists Trading Cards or ATCs, were initiated in 1997 by Zurich artist M. Vänçi Stirnemann, as a way for artists to share, and socialise with other artists.

ATCs are miniature collectables. Essentially ATCs are miniature works of mixed media art, including embroidery. All levels of work are welcome. The main goal is that they are created with the idea of sharing them.

There are only two rules for ATCs:

1. They mustn't be sold, only exchanged
2. The dimensions *must* be 2.5"x 3.5", or 64 x 89mm

How you design and decorate your card is totally up to you. It can be as unique as you are. Traditional techniques are as welcome as contemporary ones. You are free to sew, paint, draw, print, use resists, add fibres, beads, trinkets... the possibilities are endless!

Traditional embroiderers use their usual fabrics, then back their cards with some form of stiffening (many use cardboard from discarded cereal and shoe boxes). Sewers often use heavyweight Vilene as a base.

On the back of each ATC include the following information:

- Your first and last name
- Your contact information (address &/or email)
- Branch/Group (if applicable)
- Date (eg Feb 2017)
- Theme with a # if a series (eg 1/3, 2/3, 3/3).
- The title of the ATC if there is one.
- Artist statement and/or info about techniques used (if they fit!).

That's all! The above is all you need to know to start making your own ATCs. Common sense dictates that they should be sturdy enough to survive mailing, and of reasonable thickness (unless you specifically want them otherwise).

When sending, it is friendly to put a short note in the envelope when posting out an exchange. I most enjoy those with a comment on the techniques and the ideas behind the design (a mini artist's statement).

Please contact the EGV if you have any queries and we can put you in touch with the organisers.

Happy ATC-ing!

Last updated January 2017