

Newark Community Art Club with Elaine Winter

Session 15: Make and send a picture postcard

Materials needed:

Either a plain postcard or a postcard-sized piece of thin plain card. It does not have to be white and it can be recycled from another cardboard source such as packaging.

Scissors

Glue stick

Pencil, rubber, pencil crayons/felt-tip pens/paints and brushes

If you have them – printmaking materials such as ink, a roller.

Introduction: Keeping in touch with people is really important. We can send texts, make phone calls, have face time and connect via social media. All that is great but getting a piece of personal post through the letterbox is different again and somehow has more meaning. If that piece of personal post has been created by a friend and has a unique design on it then it is doubly meaningful. Why not draw, paint, collage or print a postcard to send to a friend or family member and encourage them to do the same and send you one they have designed back. Keep the exchange going. Use it as a way to keep each other spirits up. It could be an especially good way to keep in touch with an older person you know who may not use digital media to keep in touch.

Activity 1: What you do for your postcard design is entirely up to you but think about who you are going to send it to and what will encourage and cheer them in these times. Think of the subject and then think about your materials, what you have to hand and what will work OK for a postcard that is going to go through a sorting office and be in a postie's bag. So best to avoid anything like pastel or charcoal as it will most likely rub off with all the handling and also try not to have too many things stuck on the surface which could end up getting dislodged. I.e. if you do a collage make sure everything is really well stuck down and not sticking out too much.

Here's some examples of materials/processes that will work:

- **A drawing made with any kind of pen.** Pen is more permanent than pencil so will keep the imagery even if has been handled. You can always draft your drawing in pencil first and then draw over it in pen and add colour pens too.
- **A painting that uses paints which will wear well.** Acrylic paints would be great for this if you have them. But even water based paints will work.
- **A collage that is really well stuck down.** You can use scrap paper and card that from pieces of packaging and envelopes and so on to make a really interesting collage. Try to cut as many shapes as possible and arrange carefully before you start sticking down so that you are sure of your overall design.

- **A print (if you have access to printmaking materials)** – this doesn't have to be anything too sophisticated. You can make a simple print with anything with a surface, which has different depths. E.g. you could use something like a leaf – either a leaf from a tree or even a cabbage leaf and just roll ink or paint over it and then press down to make a simple print. There are lots of vegetables and fruits that make great prints. Try cutting the bottom 5 cm off the base of a heart of celery and use the cut edge. You can dip it into a saucer of paint or ink and then print with it and it will give you a kind of rose print. Take a broccoli floret and half it lengthways. Print with the cut half and it will give you a tree shape. Keep experimenting!



Once your art postcard is dry you can send it off

If sending postcards is new to you, you will need to divide the back of the postcard and remember to write the person's full name and address on the right hand side of the card with the postage stamp in the top right hand corner of that area. On the left hand side you can write your personal message.

I hope you have fun making and sending your personally designed postcard and I hope whoever you send it to decides to join in the fun and send you one back!