



# Artist Trading Cards

## Supplies:

- Pre-cut trading cards or heavy paper measuring 2.5" w x 3.5" h
- Glue stick, zots, or glue foam squares
- Scissors & paper punches
- Collage materials (magazines, maps, stamps, scrapbook paper, paint chips, cardstock, vinyl letters, stickers, etc...)
- Brads, sequins, optional
- Corner cutters, optional
- Plastic sleeves to store the ATC's

## Instructions:

1. You will start with a trading card, and build a 2-dimensional collage on top of it. If you ever find a great photo from a magazine or scrapbook paper, you can always cut it out and use THAT as the background for your trading card.
2. Using multiple elements of paint chips and various collage elements, try to strive for a cohesive look in this miniature form of art:
  - a. Pay attention to some of these basic elements of graphic design:
    - i. **Composition:** the arrangement of individual design elements that form a whole image. A successful composition attracts the viewer and guides their eye across the design. Have a main focal point where the eye immediately lands on each card.
    - ii. **Balance:** this involves the placement of elements on the page so that the text (if you use text) and graphic elements are evenly distributed.
    - iii. **Repetition:** to maintain a cohesive or unified look, you can repeat elements throughout a design.
    - iv. **Contrast:** contrast is achieved by including elements within the design that look quite different from one another. A designer, or artist, may use color, shape, texture, or size of different elements to create contrast.
3. Lay all your individual elements out on the trading card, and once you are satisfied with how it looks, go ahead and glue it all into place.
4. Store your trading cards in plastic sleeves to protect them as you build your collection.

