

On the audio tour, we met some new friends in the artworks. If you have visited Akron Art Museum, maybe one of these artworks is an old friend you have seen in the galleries before.

***Are you missing a friend you have not visited in a while?***

In the STUDIO today, we are going to explore artwork that was made & mailed between artist friends.

**MAIL ART was a movement during the 1950s-80s.  
it was meant to be an aesthetical/beautiful communication & interaction.  
Most artists engage in this process at one point or another.**

- . works that are only big enough to be put in envelopes and mailed away
- . Artists would send their artwork by post to the person of their choice, who would then have the complete freedom to decide whether to receive and/or to respond to the piece of the incoming post.
- . The idea of the founders and the members of Mail art was to create a global community, through post as a mass medium, putting an emphasis on the act of exchange and collaboration, free of barriers like language, ideology and religion.

a couple Akron Art Museum artists participated in some form of Mail Art.



The story of Sol LeWitt's exchanges with other artists is widely known. He mailed some sketches to family & sent motivational messages to his good friend & fellow artist, Eva Hesse.

Akron native & Devo frontman, Mark Mothersbaugh has kept a personal diary in the form of postcard-sized artwork for the past 30 years "an obsessive habit/hobby", according to his site. Mark estimates he has made about 30,000 pieces made so far.



Now let's get in the STUDIO to make & mail art!





**MAIL ART** *works that are only big enough to be put in envelopes and mailed away.*

In the STUDIO, let's learn how to make FINGERPRINT ART like award winning & super fun illustrator, Ed Emberley, to mail to a friend.

### **SUPPLIES**

a thumb  
a pencil & stamp pads, or washable paints or markers, or a watercolor set  
a postcard, an envelope, & a stamp

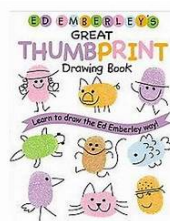
### **STEPS**

make thumbprints on your postcard with paint  
when the paint dries, make characters or creatures with a pencil  
while the paint dries, have an adult help you write your friend's address on the **center** of the envelope & your address on the top **left** corner  
place a stamp on the top **right** corner

### **MAIL ART to your FRIEND**

### **SUGGESTIONS**

{kindly} ask your friend to add more thumbprint characters to the postcard and mail it back to you. REPEAT...





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In the STUDIO, let's make PostCardDoodleArt to mail to an adult who needs a smile: a grandparent, teacher, or even your own parents.

### **SUPPLIES**

- 1 (8.5 x 11") piece of cardstock & 4 stamps
- color pencils, pen, gel pens, markers
- scissors & tape {stickers optional}

### **STEPS**

- fold the cardstock in 1/2 **lengthwise** & cut into 2 long pieces
- fold each piece in 1/2 **crosswise** to form 2 postcards
- address the **OUTSIDE** of the card to the adult & place **stamp on the top right**
- write your address** on the **INSIDE** of the card & place on a return stamp
- open the card so the **OUTSIDE** is facing up . place flat on table
- decorate & doodle just the outside, leaving address & stamp readable
- tape or sticker the postcard closed on the side
- MAIL PostCardDoodleArt to the adult who needs a smile!

### **SUGGESTIONS**

- encourage the recipient to decorate the inside & mail it back to you
- add more doodles & a **NEW** stamp on the outside & mail the card back again
- mail the other PostCardDoodleArt card to another adult
- {there are a lot of people out there who could use a smile from you!}





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In the STUDIO, let's create Themed ZINES - small, self published booklets

### SUPPLIES

a piece of 8.5 x 11" paper  
scissors & tape  
collaging supplies  
color copier

### STEPS

FOLD paper in 1/2 lengthwise. fold in 1/2 crosswise. fold in 1/2 crosswise again  
unfold paper & CUT through the middle 2 boxes

### FORM your zine:

1. PRESS paper in 1/2 lengthwise
2. PINCH outer boxes together toward the center
3. PAGES emerge . flatten booklet
4. PUT numbers on pages with post its or pencil

FILL your zine with **decorations & declarations** of the selected theme  
FORWARD to each friend, to add their personal messages & materials

### SUGGESTIONS

when it's complete, open zine & make color copies for each contributor  
create COLLECTIONS, each friend selecting a theme for another zine  
publish & distribute stacks of **infozines** on topics you are passionate about!  
create your own Akron Art **MUSEZINE** highlighting your favorite artworks

