

<p>Title:</p> <p>Artist:</p> <p>Date: _____</p> <p>White Settlement Public Library</p>	<p>Title:</p> <p>Artist:</p> <p>Date: _____</p> <p>White Settlement Public Library</p>	<p>Title:</p> <p>Artist:</p> <p>Date: _____</p> <p>White Settlement Public Library</p>
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Welcome to the world of Artist Trading Cards (ATCs)

Artist Trading Cards (ATCs for short) are an international art project started in 1997 by the artist M. Vänçi Stirnemann. His goal was to make art accessible for everyone—and it worked! ATCs are traded around the world in person and via mail.

THE RULES

Size

Cards must be 2.5 x 3.5 inches. This is standard trading card size (think Magic the Gathering, Pokemon, Yu-Gi-Oh, etc.). ATCs are the same size as these cards and therefore fit the same boxes, sleeves, and binder pages.

Trades or Gifts only!

ATCs cannot be bought and sold. Stirnemann's whole goal was to make art open for anyone no matter how much money they have! Trading introduces you to new people and new art forms, forming stronger personal connections and bringing the community together.

Signed and Dated

If you don't want to put your full name, you can use your initials or make up a special artist's signature of your own. Just be consistent in case you get famous!

Neatness counts!

You don't have to be a Rembrandt or Renior to make art cards, but challenge yourself! Put a little pride and extra work in your cards, develop your unique style, try some new techniques, and sign your name with gusto!

Do not trade other artist's cards.

We have a confession to make—depending on how your library chooses to run their ATC program, they may bend this rule a little, but that's ok! The library's job is to help bring the community together and it may do so by hosting open ATC trading. Be it a binder of cards open for trading, workshops, a "card of the day," a blind draw, or via inter-library trading with other local branches, the goal is to encourage community and spread the joy of art far and wide. They are like a gallery that hosts the art, rather than the artist or collector. However, when you're trading cards at the library or with others, only trade art you've made yourself. The cards you get from others are for you to keep and collect!



*Artist Trading Card by M. Vänçi Stirnemann, 2000
This card is pictured actual size: 2.5 x 3.5"*



MAKING ART

Get creative! Try out different art media like paint, gel pens, Sharpies, water marbling, paper punches, or sewing. For durability, use heavier paper like cardstock to make your cards so they aren't easily bent or wrinkled. Try out different materials or colors. Recycled cardboard from cereal boxes makes great, sturdy art cards, especially if you are making paintings or collages. ATCs can have 3D elements added to them, but must still be able to fit inside a standard card sleeve—so don't make your art card too thick!

TRADING

There are so many ways to trade, but the best is in-person either at ATC workshops or one-on-one. Ask a librarian how you can trade cards at your local library...and beyond! ATCs in general have no limits on what you can design. However, since you're trading at a library, which is a public space, they may put some content rules into place if their trading card program includes all ages. To trade cards outside your library, you can visit online ATC trading websites. There's even a group on Reddit, [r/artisttradingcards](https://www.reddit.com/r/artisttradingcards/), where you can see and trade art cards from around the world!