



Left: A series of Artist Trading Cards by Peter Mann, Right: a series of Artist trading cards by Marissa Kunz

Lesson #1:

Title: Artist Trading Cards (ATCs): Make, trade, and collect miniature art!

Date: July 17th, 2020. **Time of day:** 1pm, 2:30pm

Artist: Marissa Kunz

Materials/Prep:

- Paper (preferably thick and card-like) cut to 2.5 inches by 3.5 inches. (note: As long as it is cut to the official size, other 2-dimensional base material like foil, fabric, or cardboard can work as well.)
- 2-dimensional art media and materials of your choice: drawing, painting, collaging, printmaking media or a combination.

Introduction/Goals: What is an Artist Trading Card (ATC)? How did it begin? How do artists make and trade ATCs? Where do Artists get ideas?

Activity: After learning about what Artist Trading Cards are, students will make a series of 3 or more Artist Trading Cards based on subject matter and media of their choice. Students will start by brainstorming ideas for subject matter. Artists can choose to make art about things they see, things they remember, things they feel or things they imagine. It can also be experimental marks and abstract designs. Sometimes artists choose themes to work on. Themes can be any idea you connect with and want to explore further. Themes can be big ideas like: Nature, Identity, or Freedom. Another theme students can consider is ArtSeed's current theme: "Zombies: Race to Mass Extinction" or "Natural Wonders and Disasters." When an idea is found, students will start making. *(If students are stuck and need an idea, start with this one: On each card write one letter of the word ZOMBIE. Design each letter in a unique and interesting way, perhaps using the idea of zombies as inspiration. For example the first card will be the letter Z, the letter Z can be drawn/painted/collaged in any fun and creative way. Perhaps the Z is on fire, is made out of bones, is dark and scary? The sky is the limit!)* Because ATCs are small and quick, students are encouraged to try out many ideas, experiment, and make mistakes. It is important to know that not all cards will turn out as masterpieces! When finished, write your name and date on the back. With ArtSeed's help, students can trade with each other via snail mail and start a collection.

Vocabulary: Artist Trading Cards, subject matter (the main idea of your art work), series (a group of artworks that are similar style and/or composition)

Closing: Share and trade your cards. (It is also okay to not trade!)

Successes: Students can complete a series of ATCs using their own ideas based on their personal interests; students who need ideas can complete a series based on suggested steps.

Challenges: Coming up with an idea can be a challenging at first! Allowing yourself to play and make mistakes can be challenging at first too!

CA State Standard(s): 2.VA:Cr1.2 Make [art](#) or [design](#) with various art [materials](#) and tools to explore personal interests, questions, and curiosity.

Relevant Artist(s) and Distinguished People: Swiss artist M. Vänçi Stirnemann (<https://www.artist-trading-cards.ch/artist-trading-cards/>)

Other links and videos:

Marissa's intro video: <https://youtu.be/DC69SX-wqy4>

Other tutorials and ideas: <https://www.wikihow.com/Make-Artist-Trading-Cards>, A few mixed media ATC tutorials and ideas:
<https://safeYouTube.net/w/zczM>, <https://safeYouTube.net/w/NczM>