

Artist Trading Cards (ATC) are tiny works of art that are made to trade. There are no restrictions of medium or theme, materials range from collage, drawing and painting, glass, ceramic and metal to fabric and melted wax to computer-generated imagery and photography and of course, Polymer Clay! The possibilities are endless! ATC's are intended to be an avenue for artistic exchange. Cards are traded one for one and all people of all ages and artistic abilities can participate. ATC's are for everyone who want to share their art!

History

ATC's got their start in Zurich, Switzerland about 1997 when M. Vanci Stirnemann exhibited approximately 1200 cards he had produced at his gallery/bookstore. They then spread to Calgary (Canada) through an artist named, Don Mabie (aka Chuck Stake), who had visited the Zurich exhibit. These two artists collaborated on an exhibition held in Calgary, Canada in 2000 with 80 artists from 10 different countries represented. It was called "The First International Biennial of Artist Trading Cards".

Rules

There are mainly just 3 rules—size restriction, contact information and thickness. Originally the only rule was the size of 2 1/2" x 3 1/2". The rules have evolved.

Size ~ ATC's must be 2 1/2" x 3 1/2". This is the standard size for trading cards (like the baseball, football trading cards, etc.) You can create your ATC's over the top of regular playing cards, baseball cards or other collector cards or use your own cardstock or in our case, create them from Polymer Clay.

Contact Information ~ ATC's are traded so it is important to sign your ATC's on the back, date them and include any other contact information you want to give like an email address or snail mail address. If your ATC is part of a limited edition, you should number them (1/10, 2/10, etc.).

Thickness ~ Your cards can be 2 or 3 dimensional. Your design should be flat enough to fit into a standard trading-card sleeve.

Notes About Polymer Clay ATC's

1. Designing ~ Remember, you are probably making several. If you have time to make them very detailed that is fine but simple designs are great!
2. Weight ~ Remember, if you are mailing them, if you make them too thick, they will also be very heavy. Postage keeps going up!
3. Simple Design ~ You don't have to go crazy with the design. Many times, simple is better!
4. Straight Edges ~ When you are through with a design, you can use the side of your clay blade to push on the sides and straighten them.
5. Shiny Back ~ As with all Polymer Clay pieces, if you lay it on a silicone mat or tissue paper you keep the back from being shiny.
6. Contact Info. ~ It is a nice touch when you write on the back with a Gold Leaf Paint Pen by Krylon® or a Sharpie® Paint Pen (be sure it is a paint pen not just a marker). Try other paint pens too.
7. Swap Etiquette ~ There are many swaps listed on the web. Use courtesy when joining a swap. If you can't complete your commitment to a swap, tell the Host in as much time as possible.

Detailed Information can be found at
<http://www.artist-trading-cards.ch/history.html>

Some Polymer Clay ATC Examples
<http://www.picturetrail.com/gallery/view?p=999&gid=6978350&uid=531344>
<http://www.itsjesterclay.com/2005atcswap.htm>
<http://www.itsjesterclay.com/2006atcswap.htm>
<http://www.kathyweinberg.com/atcswap.html>
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/craftygoat/>

Other Examples

<http://www.art-e-zine.co.uk/atcnov03.html>
http://www.ebsqart.com/artMagazine/za_321.htm
<http://www.answers.com/topic/artist-trading-cards>

If you have a web page with ATC's you would like to have listed here, send the address to
PolyClayPlay@aol.com

ATC ~ Basics

Actual Size Should be 2½" x 3½"
Can be horizontally or vertically decorated.

Import this page into your favorite computer program and type your information in the rectangles. Print on card stock and use as the back for your ATC's.

Print this page to use as a drawing board...sketch your ideas or just get an idea of how much will fit on a card.

After you print it, measure to make sure the rectangles are the right size. If not adjust your printer settings and print again.

Include your Name, the Date and any Information you want to share with the recipient. See Rule about Contact Information.



Poly Clay Play

Join the Club...Join the Fun!

Poly Clay Play Club

How would you like a fun polymer clay book filled with projects, tips and techniques. This is what you get with the Poly Clay Play Club, every month for less than 51¢ per project when you are a yearly subscriber and only 66¢ for monthly subscribers!

The Poly Clay Play Club is a membership that includes 12 project tutorials every month. Each month, members receive 12 downloadable projects...six delivered on the 1st day and six delivered on the 15th. Additional projects are usually included.

The Projects are step-by-step, easy to follow, written instructions including full color photographs to help explain the steps in detail.

Projects are posted to secure areas in PDF format. Members are able to save and print the projects as desired. Add the CD option if you like.

Subscription Levels

All Subscription Levels receive the benefit of 20% off all products sold on the Poly Clay Play web site. With this discount, you can pay for your club membership!

All Subscription Levels receive all 12 projects and any Tips, Tutorials and Techniques posted.

Monthly
Monthly with CD
Yearly
Yearly with CD

1. **Monthly Subscription:** Receive all the projects and basic tutorials posted in their secure access area and are billed on a month to month basis.

2. **Monthly with CD:** Receive access to all the projects and basic tutorials and also receive a CD with all the projects and basics mailed by the 15th of each month.

3. **Yearly Subscribers:** Receive a free tin of 11 Cutters, all the projects and basics and are billed once a year. Total savings over monthly subscription is \$21.00

4. **Yearly Subscribers with CD:** Receive a free tin of 11 Cutters and are billed once a year. They also receive a CD with all the projects and basics mailed. Total savings over Monthly with CD is \$33.00.

12 or more Fun Polymer Clay Projects plus Tips and Techniques, every month for less than 51¢ each? Great for beginners and professionals wanting new ideas!

Join today! Don't miss any more of the fun!

<http://www.polyclayplay.com/ppSD/Subscription.htm>

If you have any questions, contact trish@polyclayplay.com



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