

A YEAR OF aRT prompts

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& friends

1. Write a list of simple but inspiring words (ie., alive, balance, courage, enough, mindful, play, story, trust), cut the list up, and put the strips in a cup. Then write a list of colors, cut the list up, and put the strips in a second cup. Pick one paper from each cup to kick start your next project. —BARB PERCH

2. Cut a small square or a circle out of a piece of paper and use it as a viewfinder to look around the room to **ISOLATE PATTERNS** and color combinations. Draw or paint what you see. —REBECCA BARTH

3. Set a timer. See what you can accomplish in a set amount of time.

4. Look at art from a different culture, and then dive into your sketchbook. —ANNE DONAGHY

5. Allow yourself to sit at your worktable for five minutes. Sometimes just getting to the table is the challenge, the rest is easy. —PJMOCKIT

6. Look through photos on your computer (the caveat is not to get bogged down looking) and just pick something for inspiration. —JO STEWART

7. Look for words in a newspaper that create a response in you. Cut them out and put them on the table. Rearrange the words into a poem collage. —BLUESTRINGS50

8. Draw or paint with your non-preferred hand.

how to use these prompts

- Start at the beginning of the list and try one each week

OR

- Print out the PDF and cut the prompts apart. Keep them in a jar or envelope and randomly choose one at a time.

OR

- Whenever you're stuck for an idea, look over the list until you find one that inspires you into action.

9. Use paper scraps to make a tiny collage. —JCLEE

10. Create your own embellishment collections based on themes (like hand-drawn birds, shoes, or houses) that are important to you. Store your embellishments in your studio for a future creative project. —JCLEE

11. Grab a sketchbook, pencils, and even a few markers, and take a visit to the old book section of your public library, or use your own collection of old books if you have them. While you flip through the pages, sketch parts of pictures, take a little from here and a little from there for future reference. —SHARON NEWBY

12. Prepare a journal spread with gesso, or a canvas with light molding paste, using only a knife, fork, and spoon for spreading and sculpting. Paint it using only the colors found in your favorite dessert! —EDIE

13. Look through your old art journals to get the juices flowing! —SKRED76

14. Start cleaning or organizing your studio space. You may get distracted with an ah-ha moment as you find supplies that you forgot you had, and then cleaning is replaced with creativity! —CRAFTYOLLULIA

15. Check out online collections from museums to get inspirational ideas for color, design, scale, etc. —ANNE DONAGHY

16. Look out the window and create a piece of artwork based on what you see outside.

17. EYE SPY: Look at one color within eyeshot, and create a collage or journal piece that describes what that color signifies to you.

18. Take out an unfinished project and do one thing to it: take off a piece, add a piece, add color, etc. —CRAFTYOLLULIA

19. Try copying someone else's process (using your own style), and make a note of the ideas it sparks. —JO STEWART

20. Look in a magazine or art book and learn a new background technique.

21. Sew strips of fabric and/or paper together and cut them into more strips that can be glued into a collage. —JCLEE

22. Draw and paint small images that can be cut and stored for later use in larger works. —JCLEE

23. Create a doodle on a piece of paper and then use it to create a piece of art.

24. Join a social network (like clothpaperscissors.com) where you can interact with other artists so you can stay in touch, upload photos of your work, and be inspired. Spend some time surfing through the galleries for inspiration.

25. Flip through your art books and/or art magazines to get inspiration.

26. Pull out old copies of CLOTH PAPER SCISSORS and look for ideas you haven't tried. —CRAFTYOLLULIA

27. Use headlines and images from the newspaper to spark ideas for a quick drawing. —BLUESTRING50

28. Try a new technique just because it looks like fun.

29. Combine two or more of your never-used-before supplies in an art piece.

30. If you prefer to use watercolors, try using acrylic paints. If you like to use acrylics, spend a little time playing with watercolors.

31. Have a 60-minute background-making session.

32. Create a series of blind sketches (sketching without looking at the paper) to use as a base for a future piece of art.

33. Pick a color and its complementary color and create a collage or painting.

34. TAKE 5! Go to your art table and grab five things that are within arm's reach, and create a piece of artwork with only those things.

35. If you normally work with fabric, try to make a similar project out of paper. If you work with paper, try using fabric.

36. If you usually work small, try going big. If you work big, try working small.

37. Work monochromatically.

38. Experiment on a series of small canvas panels.

39. Make a stencil of your favorite art icon and use it in a painting or art journal.

40. Create a small piece of art and send it to a friend.

41. Carve a stamp.

42. Pick one type of supply (paint, ink, dyes, pencils, markers, etc.) and experiment for 20 minutes. Find out how many different things you can do with that supply.

43. Find inspiration in your kitchen. Grab a handful of items from your fridge, drawers, and/or cupboards to use as tools or supplies in an impromptu collage.

44. Look in your garage or basement for an unconventional art supply and use it to create a new piece of art.

45. Start with a dark background and use white paint or white materials to create your focal image(s).

46. Do some rubbings, indoors and out. Use pencil, crayon, pastels, or charcoal. Any raised surface will work.

47. Paint using unconventional items: a tree bough, a paper bag, a comb, etc.

48. Cut out a new shape and use it as a stencil and a mask.

49. Try making a silhouette. Take a photo of yourself (or someone else) in profile and cut it out.

50. Work using only black and white.

51. Take it outside! Work outdoors and use only materials you find there.

52. Swap some supplies or materials with a friend to spark new ideas.