

High Holiday Fiber Art Postcard Project

Paula Coplton, CJA Chair



Artist Trading Cards [ATCs] are a recent addition to the fiber art world. Artists create postcards from interfacing, fabrics, stamps, and other media and mail them all over the country. The wonderful thing about this project is that you can make one or one hundred and no two are ever alike. Many people do one postcard at a time, sewing, painting and embellishing each piece. Last year I decided it would be fun to make cards for my friends and family for Rosh Hashanah, so I had to come up with a method that would be more expedient. Hopefully, you will find this a fun and

challenging project. Feel free to mail me one of your completed cards to display on this web site or at Convention 2008 in Detroit.

Materials:

- Sewing machine
- Stabilizer/Interfacing (Tintex or Pellon) It can be fusible or not.
- Iron on fusible interfacing (Wonder Under, Heat and Bond, or your favorite brand)
- Scissors
- Rotary mat and cutter
- Large see through ruler
- A variety of fabrics, threads, beads, charms, sequins
- Tulle netting
- Fabric paints
- Rubber stamps/inks appropriate for fabric
- Plain fabric for the back of the piece (muslin works great)
- Other embellishments
- Parchment paper to protect your iron from the fusible web
- Iron and board

Directions:

1. Begin with a large sheet of Tintex interfacing. If it is 24 inches long, you will get approximately 16 cards measuring 4" x 6". If it is the fusible type, remove the paper from one side
2. Prepare fabrics by ironing fusible interfacing to the back. Remove paper from them and start cutting into strips and shapes. Place on Tintex.
3. When entire piece is covered with fabrics, place parchment paper over and iron with a hot, dry iron following manufacturer's directions.
4. Now is the time to begin embellishing your piece. I began by stamping apples in the approximate places that each card would be as these would have a holiday theme. You

may now add fabric paint swirls, dots, and other designs. Glue or sew on beads, ribbons or jewels. I have found that the more layers the more interesting the piece.

5. When all embellishments are complete, dry for 24 hours.
6. Place netting over entire piece and “stipple quilt” through all layers of your piece. Be sure to sew around beads – not through them – or you will be changing lots of needles.
7. Turn piece upside down. Remove paper from back of Timtex. Place plain fabric on Timtex and iron on. This is the side that will be addressed and stamped, so don’t use anything dark or patterned.
8. Turn the piece right side up and place on your cutting mat. Using a rotary cutter and ruler, cut out rectangles measuring 4” X 6”. Each card will be slightly different depending on where you stamped, painted, etc.
9. Set your sewing machine to a wide zigzag stitch (6-7 mm) and a short stitch length (.06). This will create a satin stitch. Sew along all four sides of the piece encasing the top, interfacing and backing.
10. Write a holiday message on the back with permanent fabric markers and address to your loved ones.

These cards must be taken to the post office and weighed. They cost more to send than a standard sized card. Each card must be hand cancelled. There is no need to place in an envelope. Your family and friends will be amazed at your creativity and artistry.

Have a sweet New Year!