

Mail Art Finger Print Portrait Exhibition Call-out for All-Ages

Calling all Albertans! Join our youth council in celebrating community through the power of art!

This spring, the AGA's youth council the HIVE is inviting Albertans of all ages to participate in a community-inspired mail art exhibition. Our theme *Faces of Our Community* is inspired by the unique role we all play within our families, friendship circles, neighborhoods, cities, towns and beyond. As the pandemic has stifled our usual means of connection, we are motivated to reach out and make those connections in novel ways through art. We hope you will join us!

To participate, create a self-portrait by follow the instructions below and then, mail your artwork & letter to us by March 31 to be included in our upcoming exhibition. Still unsure of how to begin? Join us for an art-making session on March 17 at 4pm MST to gather inspiration and complete your project.

All contributions will be exhibited in the Education Gallery in the Singhmar Centre for Art Education and select images will be posted on the AGA's social media channels including a youth-led exhibition tour. At the close of the exhibition, all artwork will be forwarded to senior members of the Greater Edmonton Community as a means to brighten their day.

Finger Print Portraits

What you need:

- Letter/A4-sized paper
- Pencil
- Charcoal or Graphite powder (chalk pastels work too)
- Scissors
- Tempera or finger paint
- Drawing tools such as pencil crayons, crayons, markers, etc.
- Envelope
- Appropriate postage

Instructions:

1. Gather your materials. Lightly sketch your portrait by looking at yourself in the mirror or by using your imagination. Your portrait can be how you really are, how others see you or how you wish to be.
2. When you are happy with your drawing, gently dip your finger into the charcoal/graphite powder or paint and then, press and rub your finger onto the page.
3. Build up a layer of fingerprints paying attention to light and shadow falling on the planes of your face.
*Tip: It could be a good idea to do some tests on another page to see how the powder/paint looks when you use your finger to apply it.
4. Have Fun!! Play! Experiment! Share! Yippee!

5. Once your portrait is complete, write a letter on the back include a short introduction, description of your artwork and why you made it, a reflection about what community means to you, and finally, your hopes for the future.

*Keep your audience in mind. All artworks and corresponding letters will be forwarded to seniors in our community with the expressed purpose of brighten someone's day.

Important information

- Artworks must be sent through the **postal system or hand-delivered**. No online entries.
- **ORIGINAL** artworks only (no photocopies). Entries must meet museum standards (non-toxic, free from irritants, plant materials and bodily fluids, etc.).
- Please include an additional small paper or index card with your **Full name, the Date, and the Title** of your work for the exhibition.
- At the close of the exhibition, artworks will be delivered to seniors in the Greater Edmonton community.

All works of art must postmarked before March 31 to be included in the exhibition.

Please mail your submission to:

Mail Art Exhibition
c/o AGA HIVE
2 Sir Winston Churchill Square
Edmonton, Alberta
T5J 2C3