

Tips & Hints for Artists

(Article originally published for the Utah Foster Care Chalk Art Festival. Edited for the Chalk the Walk Festival)

SUPPLIES

The Library's Viridian Event Center will provide special pastel chalk. You will receive one box of Koss chalk to start with, which includes 24 colors. If you need additional colors, a "CHALK SWAP" will be available and you may "swap" with other artists as well.

ARTISTS MIGHT BRING:

- You may supply your own additional pastel chalk, especially if you are using unusual colors (NO OIL PASTELS).
- Basic supplies, such as foam brushes and erasers for blending, latex gloves and baby wipes.
- Wisk broom or brushes for cleaning the drawing surface before you start.
- Hats to guard against the hot sun.
- Cornstarch-free baby powder (if using the pounce method).
- Straight edge or "snap" tool (if using the grid method).
- A 2'x2' (or larger) piece of cardboard to sit or stand on to avoid smearing your work. Viridian has a limited number of carpet squares.
- A pillow, gardeners pad, or knee pads to kneel on.
- Plastic (if desired) to cover your artwork in the case of inclement weather.

TOP 6 TIPS FOR ARTISTS

- Bring plenty of water to drink and use sunscreen.
- Use chalk sparingly. Build up your layers, starting with a very light layer on the bottom.
- Some artist prefer to lay all of their undertones first. Some prefer to work top to bottom. We recommend outlining all of your major elements first.
- A big chalkboard eraser works great for laying down large areas of color. Moving the eraser in a circular motion works best.
- If you're a first-timer, consider using one object as the focal point of your artwork – a face, a frog, etc. Small details are difficult to manage on a rough surface – so think BIG & DRAMATIC.
- The more you work with chalk on concrete, the more comfortable you will become. So practice on the driveway at home.

SUGGESTIONS FOR SCALING YOUR WORK

THE POUNCE METHOD

Pouncing is a method of transfer that produces the outline of your art image directly on the pavement. It's easy but does require several tools and some advance work.

Before the Festival ...

- Trace the outlines of your art onto a piece of clear acetate or other transparent sheeting.
- Tape large pieces of 20–24# paper together to create sheet the size of your art square.
- Tape your large paper to a wall and using a projector, project the image from your clear sheet onto the large paper. Trace the lines to reproduce your image in large scale.
- Lay towels down on a hard surface and lay your new large scale drawing the towels.
- Using a tracing wheel, roll over your outlines to create holes in the paper.

At the Festival ...

- Lay the pounce on your square and tape it.
- Sprinkle cornstarch-free baby powder over the pounce and work it through the holes.
- Lift up the paper and you'll be ready to chalk over your transferred outline. You can purchase a pouncing wheel at Reuel's, Michael's, Robert's and other art stores.

THE GRID METHOD

The grid method requires little pre-festival preparation. All you'll have to do is determine the scale you want to draw and create a grid over a copy of your artwork.

- Get the size of your square. In this case, 6' x 6'.
- Choose a scale to work and create a scaled copy of your artwork. 6" x 6"
- This means your scale will be 1" = 1' at the Festival.
- Draw a grid of 1" squares on your artwork.
- At the Festival, draw the same number of squares across and down, in 1' increments, on the pavement.
- Free-hand what you see on your art grid onto the pavement.

