

Poppies and Pollinator Distance Mural Kit

Welcome to your Poppies and Pollinators Mural Kit! You will be painting a part of a mural on poly-tab mural fabric. When you and your compatriots have painted all the pieces, they will be installed as a public mural for everyone to enjoy!

STEPS:

- Step 1)** Paint your Mural Fabric
- Step 2)** Cut out your design with no extra mural fabric around it
- Step 3)** Reroll design/s in the paper they arrived in (to protect them)
- Step 4)** Return all materials (painted mural fabric, brushes, left over paint, and the box it arrived in) to ArtStart for re-use and installation!

SOME NOTES:

The mural fabric that you will be painting on should not be crimped or crinkled.

DO NOT CREASE THE MURAL FABRIC

It has arrived to you in a roll, and should be returned in this form, but the roll should not be squished, squashed, or scrunched – creases in the poly-tab fabric make it more challenging to install and can have a negative aesthetic impact on the overall appearance of the mural.

The paints and materials that you will need for your painting are included in this kit. You will need to provide a water container and palette.

When you have finished with your painting, please carefully cut out your mural piece as close to the edge of your painting as possible. What you cut out will be applied to the mural wall kind of like a decal, and a clean edge is important both for aesthetics and for durability of the mural.

For more information about how to get started, visit <https://www.artstart.us/student-tutorials> to view video tutorials, find examples, get reference images, see varied examples of completed work, and read tailored tutorials on how to paint the design you have received in your kit.

This mural will depict poppies, butterflies, and native California bees. These flowers and pollinators are not only beautiful and ecologically important; they also demonstrate the advantage of mutually beneficial connections. Pollinators and flowers have evolved close and now irreplaceable relationships over millions of years – each cannot succeed without the other.

As in nature's many mutualisms, so do we, as people, thrive and succeed at our best when we collaborate and work toward mutually beneficial goals.

Setting up:

Most of the things you will need are included in this kit, but there are several extra things you will need to have on hand...

- 1) **A large water container** for rinsing your brush as you paint. Large yoghurt container or equivalent is ideal – anything can work so long as it will not be used for food afterward, as some of the paint pigments are bad news to ingest.
- 2) **A paint mixing palette** This can be any flat, non-absorbent surface not used for food
- 3) **A flat place to paint** – If you do not have a work space that will accommodate your piece of poly-tab, a rigid piece of cardboard makes an excellent temporary backing. Just attach your mural fabric with masking tape and you will be good to paint. While working, be sure that the poly-tab is not crimped or creased. Though it is made of a non-woven polyester fabric, it is similar to paper in that creases are not removable.
- 4) **Drop cloth (optional)** It can be good to have a means of preventing paint from getting on surfaces that you would like to protect (desk/floor/chair/everything you own). A drop cloth (or equivalent, like an old sheet, plastic garbage bag, or similar) can protect desk/floor/home from paint spills and splatters

Beyond this, your kit contains:

- 5) **Paint** – the colors included here may or may not match colors you are used to, and may or may not match the tutorials for this project available on the ArtStart Website: <https://www.artstart.us/student-tutorials>. The paint included in this kit is a professional-quality acrylic paint formulated for murals. That means that it is highly pigmented, and will take a very long time to fade in the sun compared to most other acrylic paints. The paint comes to you in small containers. It may not look like much, but a little bit of this paint goes a long way – so long as you don't let it dry out. If it becomes thick, add and mix in a small amount of clean water until it loosens to the consistency that you like to use. When you are not moving paint from the container onto your palette, keep the containers sealed at all times. Additionally, store the containers in the provided re-sealable bag – this will help your paints to store for much longer without drying out.
- 6) **Brushes** – several brushes in several sizes have been included with the kit. If you have brushes of your own, feel free to use those as well.
- 7) **Mural Fabric** – the mural fabric “Poly-tab” piece/s included with this kit has been prepared with gesso (“jess-oh”) and is ready to accept acrylic paint. There may be more than one piece of poly-tab. For different interactions of this project, kit-recipient may have pieces with pre-traced designs and/or pieces that are blank. Traced pieces have painting tutorials on the website (<https://www.artstart.us/student-tutorials>), and the blank pieces are for participants to paint one or more of their own versions of the mural images – bees, poppies, and butterflies.
- 8) **The Kit Box** – this is a place to store and organize all of the pieces that have come with the kit, so that they are not mislaid in the mural-painting process. In some instances, the poly-tab mural fabric may arrive in a separate container. Please retain all materials for re-use by other mural

painters. When you have finished painting, please place all your materials and tools back in the kit box, (and the poly-tab too, if necessary, or otherwise in the container in which it arrived) to be returned to ArtStart.

Some Advice on Painting and Color Theory

The paint included in this kit is a professional-grade paint particularly formulated for use in murals – as such, it will not fade in the sun like many other acrylic paints, and has a very high pigment concentration. When mixing with white, go gently... add just a little color at a time until you get the value that you want. Otherwise you will run out of white paint.

Paint Colors:

The colors included in each kit may vary, and will be selected from the following list:

Reds	Yellows	Blues	Neutrals
Cadmium Red Medium** Quinacridone Magenta	Cadmium Yellow Medium**	Cerulean Blue Hue Ultramarine Blue Phthalo Turquoise	Yellow ochre Raw sienna Raw Umber Dark Metallic Gold Payne’s Gray
** Indicates pigments known to be toxic if internalized– do not ingest these or any of your other paints (obviously), but also avoid leaving these in prolonged contact with skin			

BASIC COLOR THEORY:

Blue + Yellow = Green

Blue + Red = Purple

Red + Yellow = Orange

Blue + Red + Yellow = All the browns... or in the right balance, **chromatic black**

“BUT WHERE IS MY BLACK PAINT?! I MUST HAVE BLACK PAINT.”

No black paint? Don’t sweat it. A set of primaries (yellow, red, blue) in the right balance can make black. This Chromatic Black tends to be read as a “softer” black, and is also less likely to dull colors as much as black pigments when used to tone other colors.

Chromatic Black recipe: one of the easiest ways to mix black is to mix Ultramarine Blue with Raw Umber Dark... your mileage may vary.

Paint Set Up:

Do: mix your colors

Do: place a small amount of paint on your palette while you are painting

Do: thin your paint with water to make transparent washes, or to keep it from drying out if it is getting gunky and thick (this trick will only save your paints for a little while, don't put off making your painting until your paints are too dry to use)

Don't: add TOO much water to your paint, as it will interfere with paint polymerization and adhesion

Don't: rely on colors straight "out of the tube," mixed colors will be more varied and lively

Don't: leave your paint cups open to the air (they will dry quickly, and then you will be out of paint and you will be sad.) Keep your paint cups stored inside a sealed bag.

Paint Clean-up:

Acrylic Paint is a water-based paint. However, that doesn't mean that it's easy to clean up if left to dry.

On Fabric: If accidentally gotten on fabric, wet the fabric immediately, and scrub and soak the paint off. Paint that dries in fabric is not removable.

On Porous Surfaces: as above, add water immediately and scrub off before the paint has dried to prevent polymerization and permanent adhesion. Alternately – in a high-risk, high-reward scenario – it can sometimes work to let the paint dry and then flake it off with a straight edge.

On Non-Porous Surfaces: Acrylic paint is removable from most slick, non-porous surfaces – soak with water, and add a little bit of scrubbing action.

Your palette, if you choose to clean it and if it is made of a non-porous material, can be soaked in water for a few minutes before the paint will scrape off easily. Put dried paint scraps in the trash.

Brushes

A small piece of advice from someone who cares: use the right brush for the job. If you are painting large, use a big brush! You'll save yourself time and headache, and get better results in the end. Save your little brushes for smaller/detail work.

Brush Care:

Do: rinse your brush of paint regularly in water to keep paint from drying in the bristles. Once acrylic paint has dried, it does not reconstitute with water. Long story short, letting paint dry in your brush is bad news.

Don't: leave your brushes sitting bristles-down. Not even in your water container – rinse your brushes thoroughly with water after each painting session and ideally let dry flat. Wood-handled brushes left in water will swell until it forces the metal ferrule off the handle and the brush is left headless.

Good Luck and Happy Painting!