

BASICS OF ATCS

The only solid rule of ATCs is that the card must be 2.5" x 3.5"

ATCs stand for Artist Trading Cards and are the standard trading card size (2.5 inches by 3.5 inches). By that, I mean think of a Pokemon card or a Magic the Gathering card in comparison to a standard deck of playing cards which are close but not the same size!! These ATCs are tradable cards that are handmade by artists who want to share their art with others while also collecting art for themselves. What type of art is on the card or what even the card is made out of varies from artist to artist, which makes collecting art much more exciting!

ATCs can be made in various materials to form the card, most commonly closely to a cardstock thickness to give the card its rigidity. It can be decorated with all wet and dry media (i.e. watercolor and acrylics vs pens and pencils) or found media for collages and mixed media pieces. Any and all techniques are allowed giving a beautiful wide range of artistic freedom and uniqueness to be created and shared.

During current times, ATCs have branched out into a section that is more "allowable" to sell/buy which are referred to as ACEOs (Artist Cards, Editions and Originals) which are basically ATCs that can be sold. Some people can take this very personally if you try to sell your card, insisting that ATCs are to only be traded. Calling them ACEOs if you choose to try and sell them, may lessen the amount of people bothering you. (They basically are the same thing!) Don't fret about it. Many see this as being able to collect samples of others artwork. Most people just want to collect a wide variety of art! Don't let that hold you back and have FUN with YOUR art!

What do you do after you finished creating your piece? Sign and date it of course! This should be the required last step to complete every card. You can either print your name or add a signature and for the date, even just the year is fine. Some artists like to add the following information to their cards: Name of the Artwork, Theme of the Artwork, Number in a Series, Location where created, and a way to connect such as an email address, social media handle or website URL. You can opt in or out of any of those. But your name as the artist and date it was completed is important!

Once you've been making a few, you'll want to find a place to store them to keep them intact. Most people grab a regular binder and some tradable card sleeve pages or individual card sleeves and a shoe box/plastic container to keep them stored and away from damage. Look around online and see what many options have been used and find one that works best for you or make your own.

Now get out there and get doodling! You may not love your art, but there are always people out there looking for YOUR exact style and love YOUR type of artwork. Keep creating!!

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Minimal Recommendations that are more for good practice:

- Sign your name (Either Print or Signature)
- Date when you completed the artwork (Even just the year is fine!)