



# 120 Art Workshop Ideas

**By Oberi Art CIC** *Inspiring Creativity & Community*

Oberi Art CIC is a community interest company dedicated to supporting artists and delivering community art projects. Lead by Kexx Community Artists who has over a decade of hands-on experience. We at Oberi Art CIC believe in the power of creativity to bring people together, creating cultural art communities in deprived areas, improving access to art, improving wellbeing, and inspiring artist growth.

This free list of 110 grant fundable art workshop ideas is designed to spark inspiration for CICs, charities, youth groups, teachers, homeschoolers, and anyone looking to run creative group activities for any age group. We hope it helps you bring more creativity into your community!

**Want more?** If you'd like a detailed breakdown of every workshop idea in this list, we offer a comprehensive PDF ebook guide available in our Smart Artist Membership just £25pm cancel any time. Check it out [www.oberiart.co.uk/membership](http://www.oberiart.co.uk/membership)

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## Photography

- Disposable camera project: Explore film photography with simple cameras. Great for story telling, capturing environments & community engagement workshops. Add an exhibition or printed zine.
- Photography walk: Group outings to capture local scenery, learn photography skills. On phones or SLR cameras. Popular project to get people moving and a mindfulness technique. Add a community exhibition and a facebook group to share images.
- Polaroid lifts: Experiment with instant film manipulation. Can use with phone image and a polaroid Lab printer as well as actual polaroids.
- Light trails: Play with long exposure and moving lights. Using SLR cameras. Great learning exercise, gets people moving and creative. Night time walks in urban areas or inside a darkened room.
- Basic photography workshop: Learn composition and lighting basics. Popular with all ages. Use with SLR cameras, lightroom software and phones. Add facebook group to share pictures and connect in a online community
- Portrait photography: Capture expressive group or solo portraits. In a studio or outside in natural light. Impactful for storytelling and raising awareness of an issue. Add exhibition or print on paper and paste up as outside exhibition.
- Nature Macro photography: Find and photograph items in nature. Great mindfulness project and helps get people into nature. Need SLR cameras.
- DIY pinhole cameras: Build simple cameras from household items.

- Street photography: Street scenes, graffiti, architecture and people in this walking tour workshop. Add an exhibition or printed zine.
- Photo storytelling: Create a photo series with a theme add to an exhibition or a printed zine.

## **Street Art**

- Paste-ups (wheatpasting): Make art work by hand or digitally, print and and paste up as street posters. Popular project introduction to street art with cheaper and temporary (more legal) entry point.
- Tagging basics: Learn graffiti signatures. Popular project to help them create identity and confidence. Add a tagging wall for everyone to sign.
- Throw-ups: Practice bubble letter graffiti on paper design and then move to a legal permitted wall or boards. Add a Graffiti history session.
- Graffiti basics workshop: Explore styles and techniques using spray cans. Add a safety demonstration.
- Murals: Plan and paint large collaborative artworks on a permitted wall. Add a community design session or community consultation. Can be painted by artists or by the participants if guided.
- Graffiti-influenced canvases: Characters or scenes on canvas. Easier entry point. Can use a pre drawn design with guided paint with paint pens.
- Stencil art: Create reusable stencils for spray art. Or pre make or buy the stencils. Easy workshop idea using spray cans with no skill or dissection needed. Use Waterbased Acrylic spray paint for safety with new or young artists.
- Sticker art: Design and print stickers to trade for street art stickers to take away to use.

- Yarn bombing: Add knitted art to public spaces. Bringing in a different audience to street art makes for a more inclusive workshop.
- Chalk street art: Temporary murals with chalk. Great kids street art project that is temporary, fun and low cost.

## **Printmaking**

- Screen printing basics: Print designs on paper or fabric hoodies/Tshirts. Turn participants' drawings into digital designs to make the screens.
- Lino cut printmaking (intro): Draw, carve and print basic designs. Print on paper, cards or fabric.
- Advanced lino cut: Multi-layer and color prints.
- Monoprinting with gel plates: Unique one-off prints. Using photos edited in photoshop into a monoprint. Use gel plate to print on to paper. Add free hand painting and collaging to impactful unique designs.
- Collagraph printmaking: Textured plates for printing.
- Foam printing: Use foam sheets as print blocks cutting out designs.
- Potato stamping: Fun and easy prints for all ages. Easy entry point.
- Block printing on fabric: Decorate textiles with making stamps.
- Cyanotype (sun prints): Use sunlight to develop unique blue images. Can be printed on paper or fabric. Add exhibitions or prints.
- Gel Plates: Using gel plates with textures and stencils to create painted patterns. Great for all ages. Easy no skill needed session.

## Mixed Media

- Mixed media canvases: Combine paint, collage, and more. Teaching skill and letting participants take their canvas.
- Mixed media collage: small or large scale. Layer different materials for texture. Easy entry point as using existing materials like magazines and images so no art skill needed.
- Mixed media portraits: Expressive faces in varied media on canvas. Guided art painting and collage sessions.
- Altered books: Turn old books into art objects. Great recycled art project. With so many pages they can take it home and continue the project. Add a library exhibition with the books and large prints of the best pages.
- Shadow boxes: 3D scenes in a box frame. More craft based project.
- Found object assemblage: Art from everyday items built into a large scale community art work piece for exhibition or display.
- Mixed media postcards: Small, mailable artworks. Create and then print into A6 postcards to distribute and participants to take. Can be put in small frames.
- Upcycled art fair event: £5 entry bring and take art materials. With workshops to reuse materials for eco-friendly art. Add Exhibition. Great way to gain income, unwanted art materials and host community events with workshops. Plus environmentally friendly.
- Art journaling: Personal journals with art and text. Adding painting, drawing, poems and sticking. Great wellbeing project. Long term habit changer for participant who can carry it on.
- Photo transfer onto mixed media: Blend photography and collage. Use Gel plates to print the transfer in a mono print.
- Cardboard engrave and collage. Use three layer cardboard from boxes as a canvas, rip and engrave with art knives. Paint on,

stencil, spray and collage. Great for exhibitions on a small budget.

## **Painting**

- Guided painting workshop: Step-by-step group painting. Sip and paint events with bring your own drinks or host in a bar. Makes for social workshop.
- Abstract painting: Explore shapes and colors A4 or large scale..
- Watercolour techniques: Experiment with washes and blending.
- Acrylic pour painting: Fluid, marbled effects.
- Collaborative mural painting: Group wall art.
- Still life painting: Classic objects or people to paint.
- Landscape painting: Capture nature scenes.
- Portrait painting: Paint people or pets.
- Painting to music: Respond to sound with color.
- Coffee or spaces painting: teaching participants with an accessible paint to reduce art costs and help access.

## **Illustration**

- Illustration basics: Learn drawing tools and techniques.
- Character design: Invent unique people or creatures.
- Comic strip creation: Tell stories in panels.
- Storybook illustration: Art for children's stories.
- Botanical illustration: Draw plants and flowers.
- Urban sketching: Draw scenes from your town.
- Fantasy creatures: Imaginative monster design.
- Hand lettering: Creative typography and signs.
- Editorial illustration: Art for articles or zines.
- Drawing from observation: Practice real-life sketching.

## **Crafts**

- Jewellery making (polymer clay): Sculpt beads earrings and charms.
- Resin jewellery: Pour and set resin for unique pieces.
- Friendship bracelets: Weave colorful wristbands.
- Origami workshop: Fold paper into fun shapes.
- Handmade bookbinding: Make your own sketchbooks.
- DIY badges/buttons: Design and press wearable art.
- Upcycled tin can lanterns: Transform cans into lanterns.
- Beadwork: String beads for jewelry or decor.
- Macramé basics: Knotting for plant hangers or wall art.
- Handmade greeting cards: Collage or paint cards to give away.

## **Sculpture and ceramics**

- Monster clay sculpting: Create creatures from clay. Using this reusable clay.
- Traditional clay sculpture: Hand-build pots or figures. And kiln fire with glaze.
- Papier-mâché figures: Sculpt with paper and glue.
- Tile bombing: Ceramic tile making and pasting up with glue or cement.
- Found object sculpture: Assemble art from recycled items.
- Soap or candle carving: Whittle bars of soap or candles into designs.
- Prosthetics: ceramic sculpture, mold and mask making. Advantage session.
- Throwing: Pottery wheel throwing workshop. Make a mug or pot fire and glaze.
- Thumb, coil to slab build pottery: Basics course to building their first pots

- Natural clay find: Find clay in nature. Make a temporary sculpture for the rain to wash back into nature.
- Air-dry clay miniatures: Small figures from easy clay.

## **Textiles & Fabric Art**

- Iron-on art transfers: Print art onto t-shirts or bags. Photo the image or art work. Print on iron on paper and help them design their own clothing. Great upcycle and budget workshop.
- Sewing basics: Make a simple tote bag. Great to add to a support group aiming to socialise people.
- Embroidery art: Stitch designs onto fabric. Community workshop for all ages.
- Fabric collage: Layer fabrics for wall hangings. Make a exhibition.
- Tie-dye workshop: Colorful patterns on clothing.
- Weaving (mini looms): Make small woven pieces.
- Textile printing: Stamp or screen print on fabric. Great traditional technique for printing on sarongs.
- Tapestry making: Large wall hangings with yarn.
- Upcycled clothing design: Refresh old clothes with art fabric collage style or draw or paint with fabric inks/paints.
- Patchwork/quilting basics: Sew fabric scraps together. Community workshop. Good for celebrating a community event.

## **Zine Making**

- Mini zine basics: Fold and fill a tiny booklet basic into making your own printed zine book. Can unfold print and distribute to swap.

- Collaging in zines: Use images and text. Workshop to build skills and engage in a mindful creative process.
- Doodling in zines: Add illustrations and patterns to increase your zine skills.
- Themed zines: Fan, personal, or protest topics. Good for giving participants a voice and helping with identity.
- Photography zine: Showcase photos in a zine book. Instant self published photo book. Great for community projects that want to distributed outcome.
- Group collaborative zine: Everyone contributes a page. Print and distribute. Base on a theme.
- Comic zine: Short comics in zine form.
- Poetry zine: Share poems with art. Adding creative writing. Use type writers or fine line pens. Great way to add text into abstract collage zines.
- Zine swap event: Exchange zines with others. Zine libraries and zine fairs.
- Digital zine basics: Make zines using apps or software. Print and distribute. Use some pages as prints for an exhibition.

## **Performance Art**

- Open mic night: Share music, poetry, or stories.
- Improv theatre games: Fun group acting.
- Spoken word poetry: Write and perform poems.
- Flash mob planning: Organize a surprise performance.
- Performance art with props: Create scenes with objects.
- Storytelling circle: Share stories in a group.
- Shadow puppetry: Make and perform with puppets.
- Collaborative movement piece: Group dance or movement.
- Site-specific performance: Art made for a special place.

## Music

- Lyric writing: Write your own song lyrics.
- Lyric English Literature: Use English Literature skill to analyze song lyrics.
- Music video creation: Film and edit a group video.
- Photography for music artists: Take band or artist photos.
- Making a music portfolio: Collect and present creative work.
- Peer-to-peer music studio: Collaborate on recording sessions.  
Add in work experience in media skills training.
- Making an EP: Plan and record a short album.
- DIY instrument making: Build simple musical instruments.
- Beatboxing basics: Learn vocal percussion.
- Songwriting circle: Write songs together as a group.
- Rhythm and percussion workshop: Explore beats and drumming.

Enjoy exploring and sharing these creative workshops!

Remember to go grab the full workshop plans in the Smart Artist Membership [www.oberiart.co.uk/membership](http://www.oberiart.co.uk/membership)