

Accessible artistry

Artistic expression for everyone



Human Development
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Universal Art

IDEAS xLab and the University of Kentucky's Project CHEER partnered to create Universal Art. Due to COVID-19 concerns, the project evolved to create virtual arts lessons led by self-advocate artists with disabilities.



Artists with disabilities

The Universal Art program recruited artists with paralyzing conditions. The artists made tutorial videos to show how they have adapted to create their art.



Low impact activities

Even those with severe physical disabilities could participate in the Universal Art project and the videos showed ways that artists adapt to express themselves.



Long-term impact

The video tutorials created by the Universal Art program continue to exist on video sharing sites, giving inspiration and ideas to aspiring artists long after the grant program ended.

IDEAS xLab

IDEAS xLab is a dynamic artist-run nonprofit based in Louisville, KY that uses the art of storytelling and community collaboration to impact public health. Their HEAL Community Approach supports communities in their drive toward positive health outcomes and impact through music and drumming circles, open mic poetry slams, visual art exercises, writing workshops, creative experiences, and more.

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Assistive technology for artisans



Featured artist: Abby Marsh (<https://youtu.be/X0-fs8ozhYI>)



Abby wraps her pens and pencils in cohesive medical tape. This makes it easier for her to grip by adding texture and extra friction. It also helps her service dog pick things up if she drops them.

In her video, Abby mentions using a universal cuff for holding drawing tools. Also called a holder strap or utensil cuff, these accessories can hold small objects. They have a strap that helps hold the items tightly to the user's hand. Abby also shows off her retractable eraser which is easier for her to hold.



Featured artist: Cruise Bogle (https://youtu.be/_LGqFvzMeeQ)

Cruise has an easel that is highly adjustable so that his canvas can be positioned where he needs it. He has very little movement in his arms and hands so he uses a mouth stick with an attached paintbrush to create his artwork. A mouth stick is a very useful tool for people with upper-body limitations; they are inexpensive, versatile, and tend to last for a very long time.



Featured artist: Graham Maupin (https://youtu.be/x5P8f_vJc4)



Graham paints using a technique called pour painting. While Graham only has use of one hand, he has figured out how to pour paint using only a couple of inexpensive items that should be available at any local department or big-box store. Graham uses condiment squeeze bottles to apply the paint to the canvas and a plastic turntable so that he can access the entire canvas

easily.



Learn more about inclusive art resources in Kentucky

artsforallky.org
kyarttherapy.org



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Products featured above are intended as examples and are not endorsements or recommendations. Development of this resource supported by US Administration for Community Living grant 90PRRC0001.