



Getting Ready for Art-Making

The Frye Art Museum has designed a new video series featuring teaching artist Janet Fagan, offering a variety of tips for care partners who are interested in art-making experiences for older adults and people living with dementia at home.

Preparing Materials

Learn more about how to prepare different types of materials ahead of time for a range of art projects, such as collage, clay sculptures, or a watercolor painting. Having prepared materials can be especially helpful if your family member or friend needs extra encouragement or support on the day that you will be making art. Happy making!

- For a paper-based or collage project, have several sheets of paper that will serve as the background for the artwork. Consider having neutral and bright colors. In addition, you can prepare different shapes in advance by cutting or tearing the paper and placing the pieces in an envelope. Be sure to also have scissors and a glue stick on hand.
- For a project using soft clay, you can prepare the clay by rolling it in your hands, which makes it softer and easier to use for your family member or friend. You may also consider creating different shapes in advance, such as disks or cylinders. If you plan on using any embellishments, such as feathers, beads, or other found objects, gather them in a container to have them readily available for this project.
- For a project that features a still life, identify and locate your objects in advance and have them ready to be arranged.
- For a painting project, gather all your supplies in advance. Suggested supplies include a container for water, paint, paintbrushes, paper towels, a palette for your paint, and paper. Note that you should select the paper for this project based on the type of paint you will be using. For example, if you are using watercolor paint, you should plan to use watercolor paper.