

Simple displays for your child's artwork

By Irene Woodworth

Do you remember being a child and creating a piece of artwork in school? Did your mother display it on the refrigerator like mine did? I remember feeling so proud that my artwork was being displayed for all to see.

What happened to the artwork as you progressed and brought home more and more pieces? Before you knew it, there were artwork piles on a cabinet, dresser or put in drawers.

The challenge is to be creative, keep your sanity, organize your area and not harm your children's or grandchildren's self-esteem while still honoring the artwork they created.

I want to share some simple, easy and effective methods that can become some win-win solutions to display the artwork. They will not only highlight this artwork, but you will be able to maximize the masterpieces you may enjoy in your home from your "budding artists."



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"Every child is an artist." — Pablo Picasso

I worked part-time for product at a scrapbook company in Portland, Ore. a few years ago. I will never forget a simple display idea the staff was working on to motivate all of us fellow scrappers. Instead of hanging sheets or clothes on a clothesline, they hung scrapbook pages. It was a very simple and easy idea using everyday items of nails, jute twine and clothespins.

It is a great idea for hanging your children's artwork. When you designate a special corner, a wall in your kitchen or above a play area, there are a variety of possibilities. Try some of the following ideas that you can match to your own

decorating colors and style.

- An innovative way for hanging lightweight art is available from IKEA; it is called "Dignitet." It includes two stainless steel support fittings and a long cable wire. Also from IKEA are "Riktig" metal clips. A narrow curtain rod that you can hang your artwork on with clip rings can also be used.

- I really enjoyed a picture I found on Pinterest with a Picasso quote wonderfully placed to highlight the artwork. This idea is a self-esteem booster for anyone. It was posted by Zoe Coudurier on Pinterest and is shown in the photo accompanying this article.

- You can also attach clothespins to a piece of wood with strong glue; paint the name of your child to say something like, "This is what Jude made."

- Six or eight clipboards from a discount store can be used to create a rectangular wall collage.

- Bargain hunters will like finding wooden frames that can be painted in their choice of colors. Inside you can pin a piece of artwork and change it out as often as you like.

- If you want to get elaborate, you can display shadow boxes and change out your artwork as a gallery on the wall. A fun out-of-the-box idea is to use the last name of your family and either paint or use some custom word art, such as (using our name): "Woodworth Art Gallery."

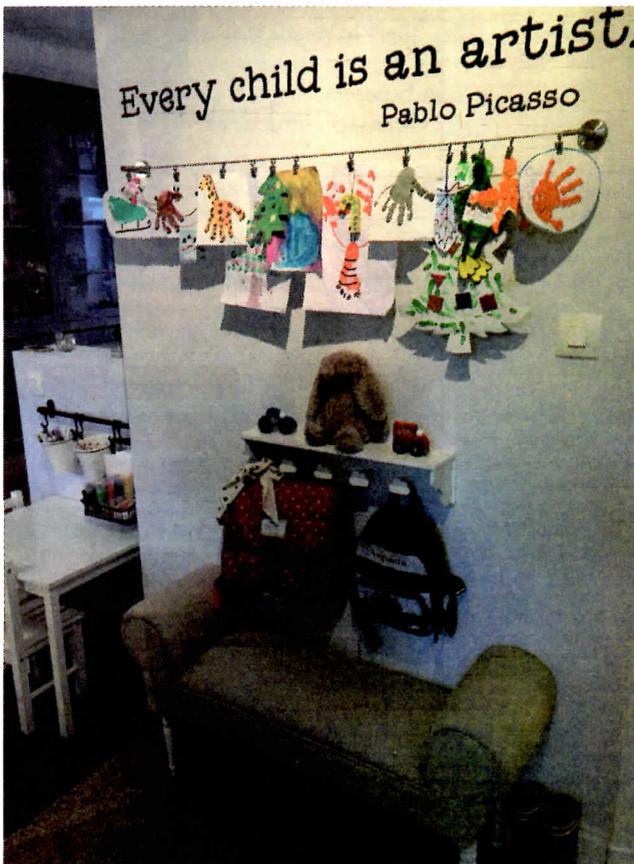
- Maybe you can try an old painted shutter to hang your artwork with clips or clothespins.

- If you have more than one child, get large bulletin boards and paint the frames in coordinating colors. Display each child's name or initial on each board to display his or her artwork. When family members come to visit, it will be easy to identify the artwork each child created.

- Wouldn't a child think he or she is special if one of their art pieces were copied and transferred to a tea towel or a t-shirt?

I hope these ideas have spurred your imagination to elevate those kids' masterpieces in a cohesive, organized and unique way in your home. ●

Irene Woodworth is known as "Idaho's Color Lady" and is founder and CEO of Redesign Boise. She is a national redesign award winner, motivational speaker, certified redesigner and color consultant, and instructor on redesign and color. She has a degree in education and interior design and has taught various decorating and color classes throughout the country. For more information, visit RedesignBoise.com.



One example for creating a way to display children's artwork was found on Pinterest and includes a quote from Pablo Picasso.