Art Burst Journal Cover

Using cartoon graphics to title your art journal is a fun way to make it stand out and declare what is inside.

Rather than write personal names in this style (which is fine for Sue or Tom, not so much for Elizabeth or Antonio) I recommend students first practice with just the letters A-R-T. This lets them focus on drawing the size and placement of the bursts, which is important in making the word look like it’s popping out.

MATERIALS NEEDED

CARDBOARD, 6” x 9”
Start with any box that is clean, large and easy to cut with a paper cutter. If you want to decorate your cover, you’ll need make sure there is no writing on it.

PAPER, 6” X 9”
Cutting this is easy if you start with 9” x 12” and chop in half. I recommend heavyweight drawing paper for most projects, and watercolor paper for ones that use water.

PAPER CUTTER
I prefer the old dangerous type with the arm that comes down, because it works fast and cuts through even heavy cardboard. The sliding arm type works fine though too, if you stick to lighter weight boxes.

TWO-HOLE PUNCH
There are many types, all seem to work well. Mine came from Staples and cost about $15, lasted for years.

BOOK RINGS
If you just need a few, Staples sells 16 for $5. If you need bulk, try searching Amazon. I found boxes of 100 for $10.
1. Lightly draw large capital ART stick letters.

2. Lightly trace around the stick letters to turn them into block letters.

3. Trace the block letters with a black marker. Erase all pencil lines.

4. Draw a burst in pencil. Note: It MUST be smaller than the letters. If not, the word will not look like it is bursting out.

5. Erase all the burst lines inside the block letters.

6. Trace the small burst lines that are left with a black marker. Draw a larger burst around the outside.

7. Trace the larger burst with the marker.

8. Use the marker to draw a shadow on the bottom and right sides of each letter.

9. Color all with contrasting letters. Add your name below.