

ART AT HOME: *Signs of the Times*

~Regina A.E. Scudellari-Ponemon, Hospital Artist-In-Residence, Mount Sinai

As an artist, signs have been yet another life long fascination most likely inspired by my mom and dad's careers in graphic design. With COVID-19 and the call for social distancing, there has been a recent uptick in using signs for communication, inspiration and gratitude. Signs can be created from almost anything that you might have around the house, making it the perfect reduce, recycle, reuse project.

1. Gather materials from what you already have at home. Start with a suitable substrate: paper or cardboard work best. All of my signs are created from cardboard and paper that would otherwise be thrown away. Next, choose your medium- whatever you have on hand is fine, paint of any kind/magic markers/colorful collage from magazines.



2. Now, choose a word or short phrase. Most of my signs are positive, upbeat and designed to inspire. For my latest sign I went with "Thank you" as I wanted a sign to hold up each night at 7p.m. when my neighborhood does it's nightly salute to heroes/first responders and essential workers.





3. Decide if you are going to follow a particular typeface or free hand it like I usually do. Map out the word on the page in light pencil. Also consider using symbols (like a heart) as symbols convey a great deal and are very powerful.



4. In all of the samples shown here, I use magic marker as my medium. I love the control that markers give and they are also very forgiving in terms of correcting if you make a mistake. I also love magic marker because it can create patterns as you fill in spaces. Look closely and you will see swirls and lines patterns in many of my pieces. This is something that paint cannot achieve and I love the visual interest that it creates. Working this way can also be very meditative and soothing.



5. If your sign has large open spaces, consider filling that space with a generous layer of glitter glue. I often use several layers of glitter glue to get an opaque effect. You can also use collage to make open areas more interesting. With the signs that I make, the negative space is just as important as the positive space. I think that both aspects should be beautiful and visually interesting. Much of my silkscreen and cut paper work is double sided: I happen to love extending the edge of art from the front to the sides and backs of pieces. This holds true for the signs that I make. Also think about the edges: while they are thin: they too can be colored.



Finally, as with all of my tutorials, feel free to post your creations online (facebook/Pinterest/Instagram), as I would love to see your explorations/experimentations and results. Most importantly, Enjoy & have FUN!

Creatively yours, Regina