

Historic Valentines

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In the mid-19th century, cobweb or bee-hive valentines were sometimes delivered on Valentine's Day. They had a picture, often flowers or a picturesque scene, with a string in the center. When the string was pulled the top picture revealed a second picture underneath, visible through cuts in the top layer with the stretched paper having the appearance of a cobweb. The woven heart in hand was another "token of love" exchanged in past times. We'll construct a model of both of these historic valentines. Participants can make more personalized valentines to send for Valentine's Day or incorporate these techniques in their artwork after class.

Tools:

Pencil

Scissors

Compass

Metal ruler

Piercing tool

Cutting mat

X-Acto knife

Self-healing cutting mat or thick (not corrugated) cardboard, like the back of a legal pad

Colored pencils, markers, fine black marker

Glue stick (or PVA glue and small glue brush)

45" triangle (optional)

Microspatula (optional)

C-thru clear gridded ruler 12" or 6" (optional)

Telfon (bone) folder (optional)

- 8-12 sheets of 8.5x11 text weight or copy paper, in at least 2 different colors/patterns

(Can use recycled material, old catalog pages, etc.)

- 3-5 pieces of 6" square (or about that size) of heavy (140 lb) watercolor or other thick paper, bristol or mat board
- Thread, any thicker thread will be fine, like linen bookbinding or button and carpet thread: about 20"
- 5-8 pieces of 8" square (or about that size) of thin strong paper. The following paper has worked for me and I can use watercolor on it (though with some cockling): Borden & Riley No. 37 Boris Marker paper, translucent white, smooth finish, 50 gsm. It's advertised for pen, ink & marker. But for the class you can use copy paper, tracing, or any other thin paper you have.
- If you have a small piece of Tyvek, 2" square or so, (perhaps from an old envelope) helpful, but not necessary