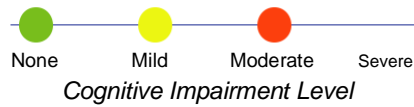


Art Activity

Personal Portfolio



Summary:

Residents will create a respectful and professional method of presenting and preserving precious art pieces. You will need to make one for residents with severe cognitive impairment; their families will appreciate a record of their loved one's artistic expression.

Objectives:

- Placing art in a protective space—portfolio—in the presence of the resident, symbolizes our care and concern for the resident themselves, as the art is a product of that individual.
- The portfolio becomes a metaphor representing containment, security and safety, just like our communities.
- Periodic review of the portfolio contents with the resident becomes an activity in and of itself.
- A visual record of creative expression may also be used as a diagnostic tool (changes in cognitive functioning, fine motor deficits, etc.).
- Recurring themes present in the art provide stimulus for discussion and reminiscing, often representing that which evades verbal expression.
- The portfolio becomes a visual memory for that resident's life experience while living in our community, and provides the family with a priceless memento of their loved one.



Supplies:

- Two canvas art panels (the same ones used for painting). They are often sold in 3-packs at Hobby Lobby for as little as \$4.
- Decorative duct tape
- Twine
- Scissors
- Mixed media to decorate exterior of portfolio: paint/brushes, markers, magazine pictures, Modge podge, etc.



Room Set Up:

- Tables for residents to work at
- Play soft, instrumental music:

iN2L Music, TV & Film > Jukebox



Facilitating the Activity

Procedure

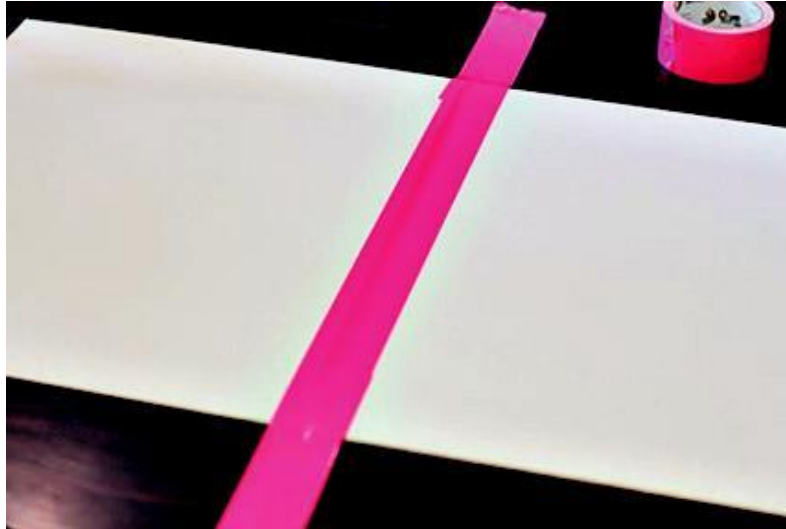
1. Lay the canvas panels face down, leaving about a 1/2" between them.



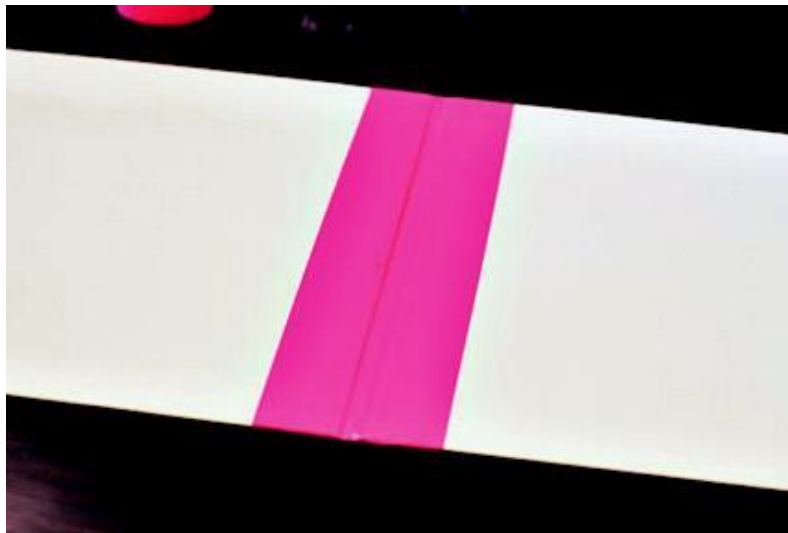
2. Take a strip of duct tape and place it across the gap between the panels to connect the two.



3. Wrap the tape ends around the other side and then turn the panels over. Place another piece of tape across the gap from the other side.



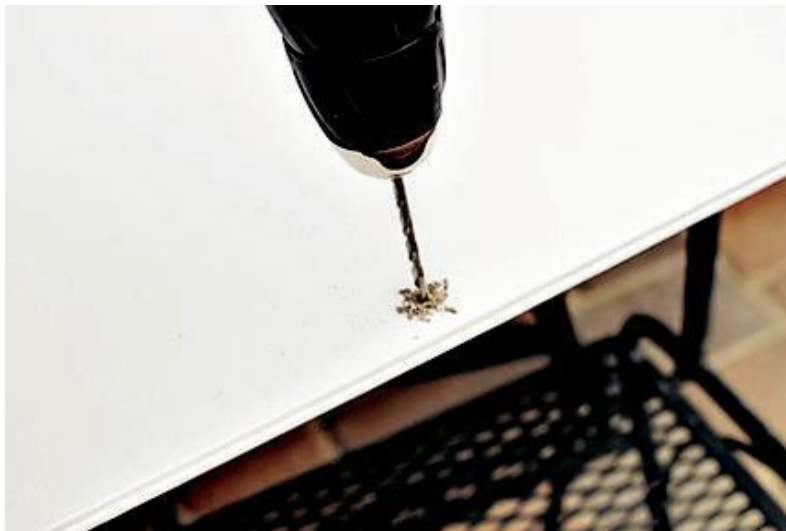
4. You can add another row of tape on either side of the initial strips of tape to reinforce the bottom.



5. Fold the two panels together and mark the center edge as shown.



6. Ask your plant ops person to drill a hole through both pieces of canvas (or hot glue a Velcro strip to each piece at this point).



7. Tie twine through one hole and knot it as shown and repeat with another piece of twine for the hole on the second panel.



8. Invite your residents to use markers, paints, collage materials, etc., to personalize the exterior of their portfolio. That's it!

Processing

Ask:

“How was this experience for you? Were there any particular challenges you faced—how did you overcome these? How does it feel to have a special place for all your artwork? Would anyone like to share their thoughts about how they designed their portfolio?”

Adaptations/Modifications



Cognitive Impairment: Severe

- Pre-tape the portfolio together for the resident.
- Limit the choice of materials with which to decorate the portfolio.
- Assist hand-over/under-hand and model as needed.
- Offer lots of encouragement!