

June 19, 2024

Paper Quilling

Quilling is the art of rolled, shaped, and glued paper that results in creating a unified, decorative design. The name quilling is thought to come from the origin of the art; birds' feathers, or quills, were used to coil the strips of paper around.



The art of quilling has been around for centuries, with a remarkably varied historical background spanning across continents. The birth of quilling is a bit unclear, with opinions regarding this differing depending on the source. Popular opinion suggests that it was first seen in ancient Egypt, where certain filigree-type art inspired more modern quilling years later.

Quilling has persevered through time, most notably making its mark throughout the Western world. During the Renaissance, nuns and monks would roll gold-gilded paper trimmed from books to adorn religious objects, mimicking costly gold filigree. In later years, quilling continued to be practiced throughout Europe as it caught on as a leisurely activity for affluent women. They would adorn objects such as picture frames, baskets, and jewelry boxes.

Today, quilling is resurfacing again as a more accessible, affordable hobby for people of every age and background.

Excerpt taken from Quilling Card (<https://quillingcard.com/pages/the-history-of-quilling-1>)

Let's Paper Quill

Materials:

- pencil
- glue
- paper
- cardstock
- scissors
- quilling needle
- pen or straw

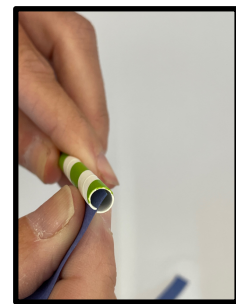
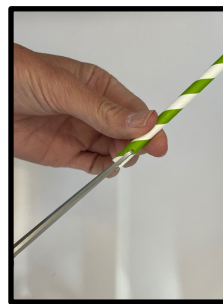
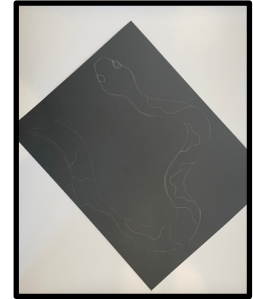


The directions below include instructions for younger children in red. Younger children will most likely benefit from using the straw and paper with larger widths. The quilling needle and smaller papers may prove frustrating.

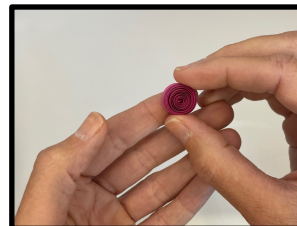
Process:

- 1) Find a comfortable place to work and pour out all your materials.

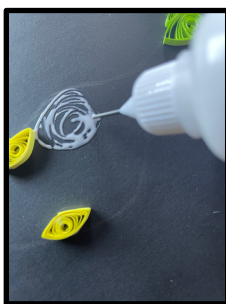
- 2) Using your pencil, draw an outline of any object. (Younger children may just enjoy curling paper and gluing it to the paper. Either way is fine.)
- 3) Plan your color scheme based on the colors you received. Notice that some of the paper may be different widths. (Help younger children by cutting out strips from the construction paper.)
- 4) Older children and adults can use the quilling needle to begin rolling paper. Insert the paper into the slot of the quilling needle and begin rolling the paper, using one hand to roll and the other hand to hold the coil together. (Younger children can use the straw by cutting a slit into the top of the straw and inserting any width of construction paper into the slit. Start rolling the paper around the straw until you run out of paper.)



- 5) Pull the coil off the needle (straw) and holding the coil between your fingers, slowly let the coil loosen. Place a small amount of glue on the end of the coil and push lightly to adhere.



- 6) Please check out the internet or this YouTube video (35 Paper Quilling Shapes - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fCTtPlmMwmg>) to learn about all the different shapes you can make with your coils or come up with some of your own, simply by squeezing and pinching in different areas.



- 7) After you have your desired coil, place a little glue onto the paper or the bottom of your coil and adhere to your paper. Fill in your design as you see fit. (As said before, younger children will most likely enjoy coiling and then gluing down, haphazardly. Let them experiment and enjoy.)

- 8) Enjoy this process and be patient with it, as it does take some time.

- 9) We finished our pieces by outlining them with the quilling paper. Some artists start with the outlining process and fill in accordingly. Do it either way your like to not at all!

- 10) Be proud of your creation and bring it back to Old Town Square next Wednesday so that we can hang it up for all of Fort Collins to see!

A couple of tips:

- 1) It took us a little time to find a rhythm with the coils. You'll find your own rhythm and technique!
- 2) Keep the lid on your glue when you take a break. The glue will dry in the small metal applicator if you do not. If it does dry, push a small needle into the applicator and dislodge the dried glue.
- 3) It may seem a little daunting for children at first, but I was pleasantly surprised to watch Olivia take her time over the course of a couple of days and finish the entire thing! Your kids can do it too!
- 4) Parents...please let your children experiment and complete the project on their own. We have no expectations for finished projects and we want to see what your kids can do! We don't care if it looks nothing like the project. Allowing them to try and do it without "doing it for them" helps them gain confidence and results in some beautiful finished projects! We would be happy to give you a packet so that you can do it together! We highly encourage it!

Follow us on Instagram @nola_creative_company as we will be featuring artwork from each week. We will not use full names or identify your children in any way other than using their first name in order to give credit.

About the Art for the Heart Program

Art for the Heart is a program of the Fort Collins Downtown Development Authority and NOLA Creative Company.

All returned projects will be displayed in our outdoor kiosk located in between Coopersmith's Pub and Poolside restaurants. All projects will be returned to you the following week after they have been displayed.

Each art project returned will earn you a punch on our "Frequent Artists" punch card. Artists with consistent participation will be awarded prizes at the end of the program.

You can find all of our past projects and more information about the program at <https://downtownfortcollins.org/art-for-the-heart/>

This project is brought to you by: