

Myriorama

the art of the endless landscape



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TASK:

Create a *MYRIORAMA* card game: a series of pictures that can be arranged into different sequences to tell a different story/ narrative according to the order they are arranged. Create a card box to keep them in when not in use.



This is a photograph of an example of a *Myriorama* card game. Notice how the cards although display different scenes, when displayed in a linear arrangement they line up so they look consistent. This is achieved by having horizon lines that match up on each card.

What is a Myriorama? Some descriptions from the internet.

Laurence King Website

The very first myriorama was designed by Jean-Pierre Brès and appeared in France in the early 1820s. The unusual format instantly took off, and it soon became a popular parlour game across Europe. In the UK, the first myriorama was published in 1824 by Samuel Leigh and designed by the landscape and war artist John Heaviside Clark (aka John Clark of London). The sixteen delicately hand-coloured cards featured picturesque English and Scottish landscapes, dotted with mountains, lakes and ruins.

The twenty trillion (20,922,789,888,000 to be exact) possible combinations blew the minds of the Georgian public and the game was described by the Morning Chronicle as “One of the most diversified and exhaustless inventions for variety and pleasing amusement that has hitherto appeared.”

From: <https://www.laurenceking.com/blog/2018/06/06/story-board/>

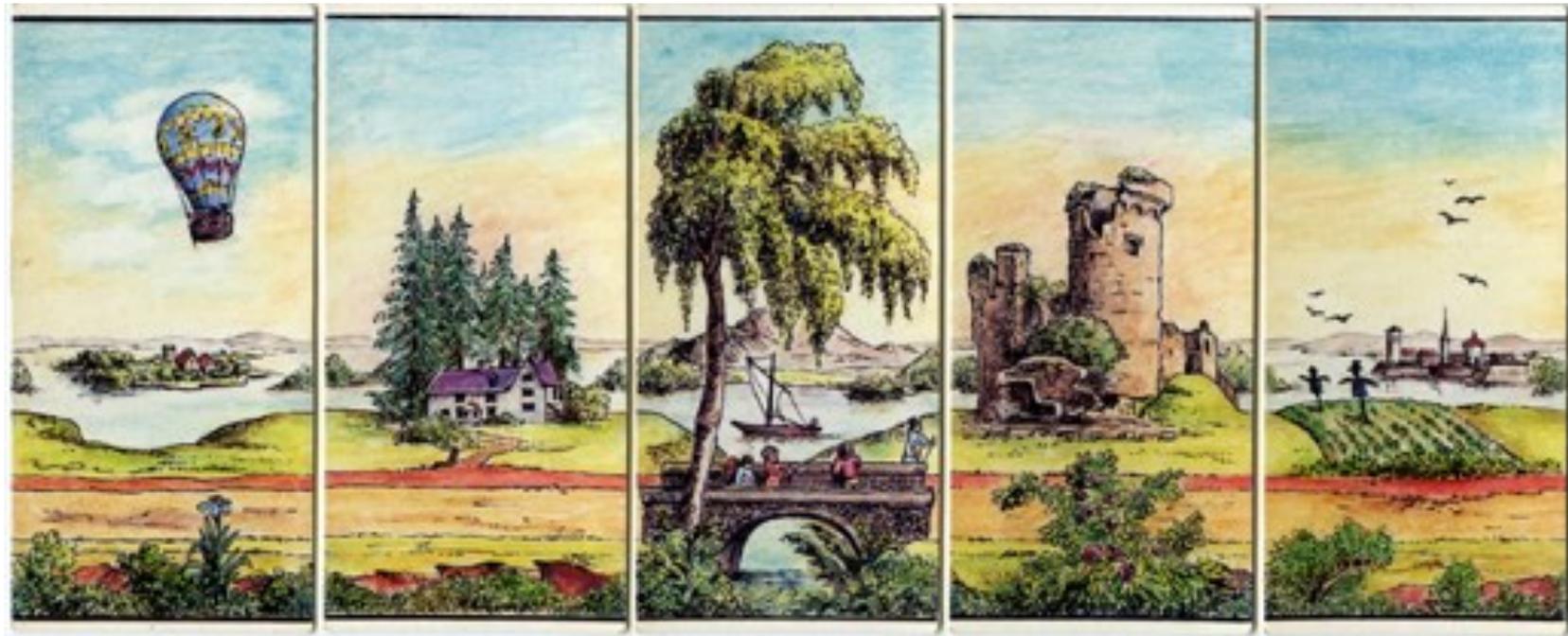


Kristen McQuillin. mediatinker.com
April 2007

Proboscis website:

The Endless Landscape, polyorama or myriorama (meaning 'many views') was a popular 18th and 19th century storytelling game also known as a tableau polyoptique. It consists of a series of paintings of fragments of a panorama that can be arranged in billions of combinations to form a continuous landscape for creating stories – each card extending, adding to or changing the narrative. A never ending journey of imaginary landscapes.

From: <http://proboscis.org.uk/endlesslandscapes/index.html>



Example of a myriorama from <https://www.simonwarner.co.uk/2013/01/depth-and-horizon/>

Milan Milojevic's Never Ending Story



Currently on display at the Devonport Regional Gallery as part of Milan Milojevic's exhibition: *Terra Incognita: A Duck Billed What?* is his work titled *Never Ending Story*. It is comprised of 20 panels that make up a myriorama of a brightly coloured fantasy landscape containing strange and dreamlike scenes containing hybrid creatures. You can view it in the main gallery until the 27th of March 2021.

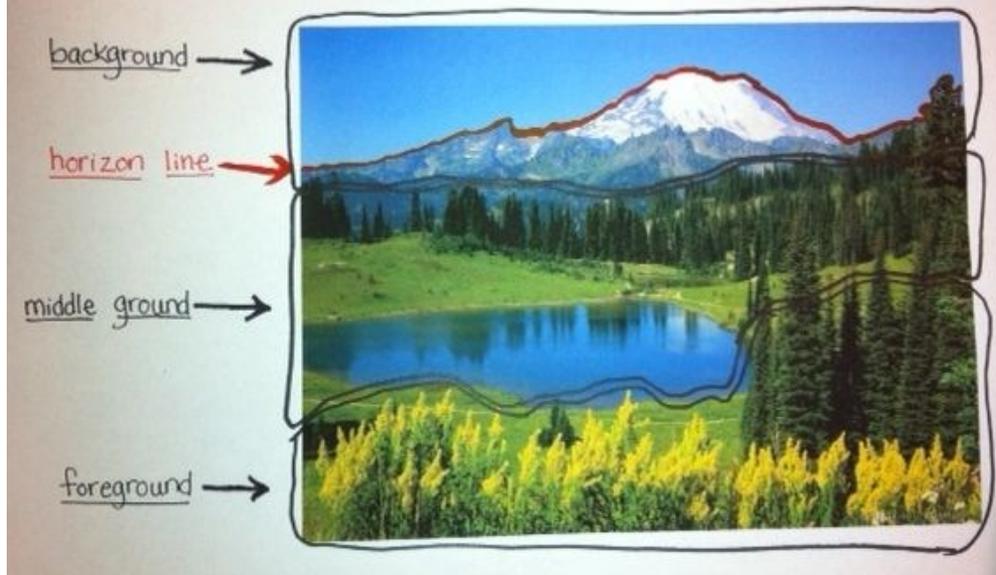


You Will Need:

- Cards the same size and shape on medium to thick card
- Plain white paper
- A4 card to make box
- Ruler
- Scissors
- Glue stick
- Pencils
- Eraser
- Art materials as required to illustrate your cards such as coloured pencils, pens, paints



* 4 parts of a landscape

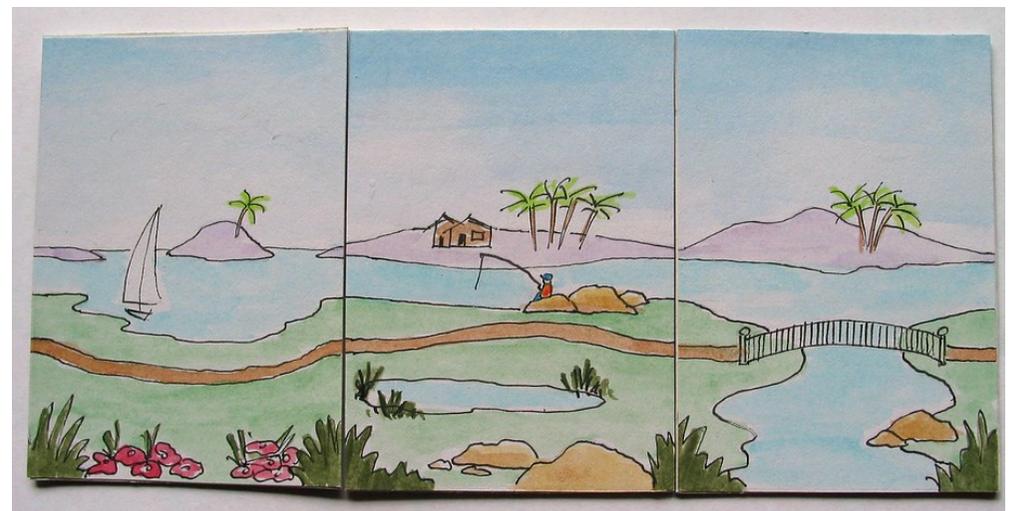


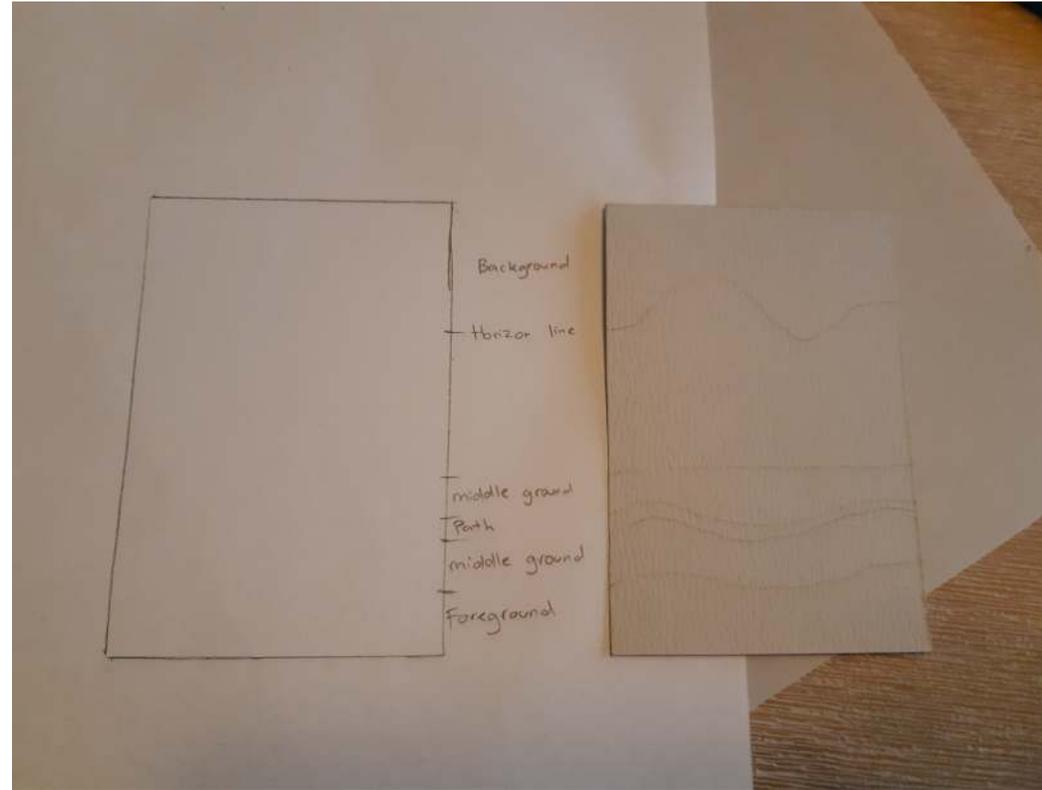
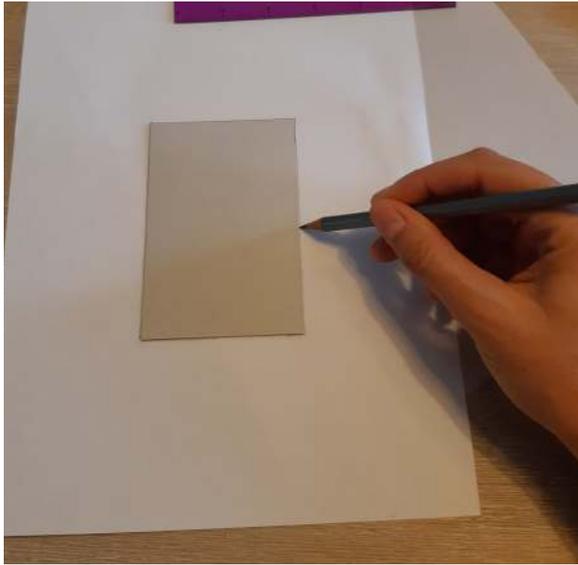
From Hillcrest intermediate art website: <http://websites.pdesas.org/mbrown1/2010/8/12/82919/page.aspx>

Have a look at the examples on this and the previous pages and see if you can spot the foreground, middle ground, horizon line and background. Notice the lines of these in the example pictured here in "4 parts of a landscape". These are the lines you will use to create your template in step two.

Step one:

Measure and cut your cards to size (available pre-cut in art packs). An ideal myriorama has several horizon bands that will run continuously through your scene when cards are lined up in any order. Its good to have at least a foreground, middle ground and distant horizon, but you can have more if you wish. Remember each cards horizon lines will meet up on the edges so they run continuously when lined up. You will be able to put elements such as objects and figures in each of the areas on each card.



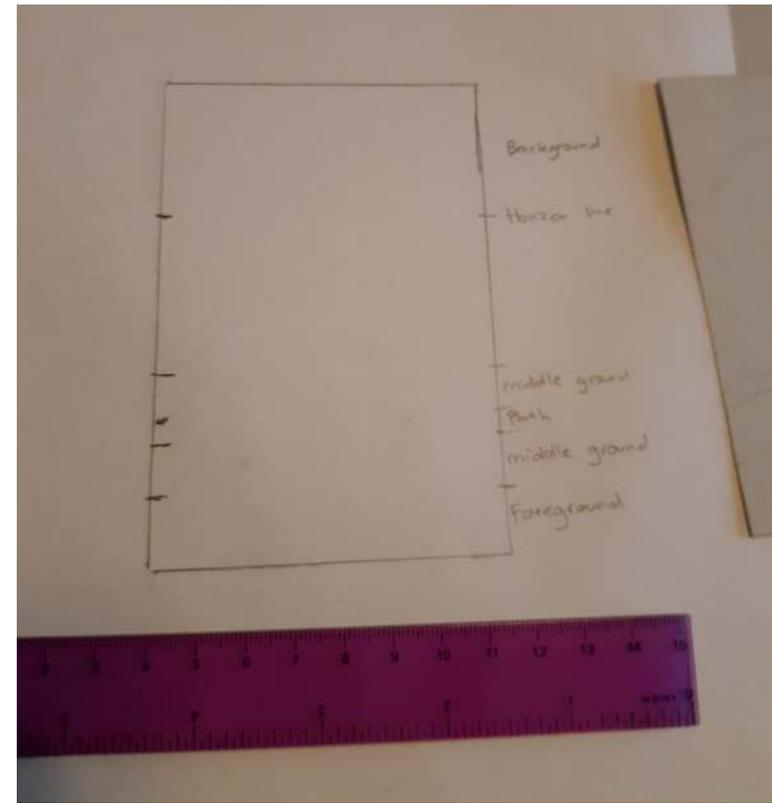
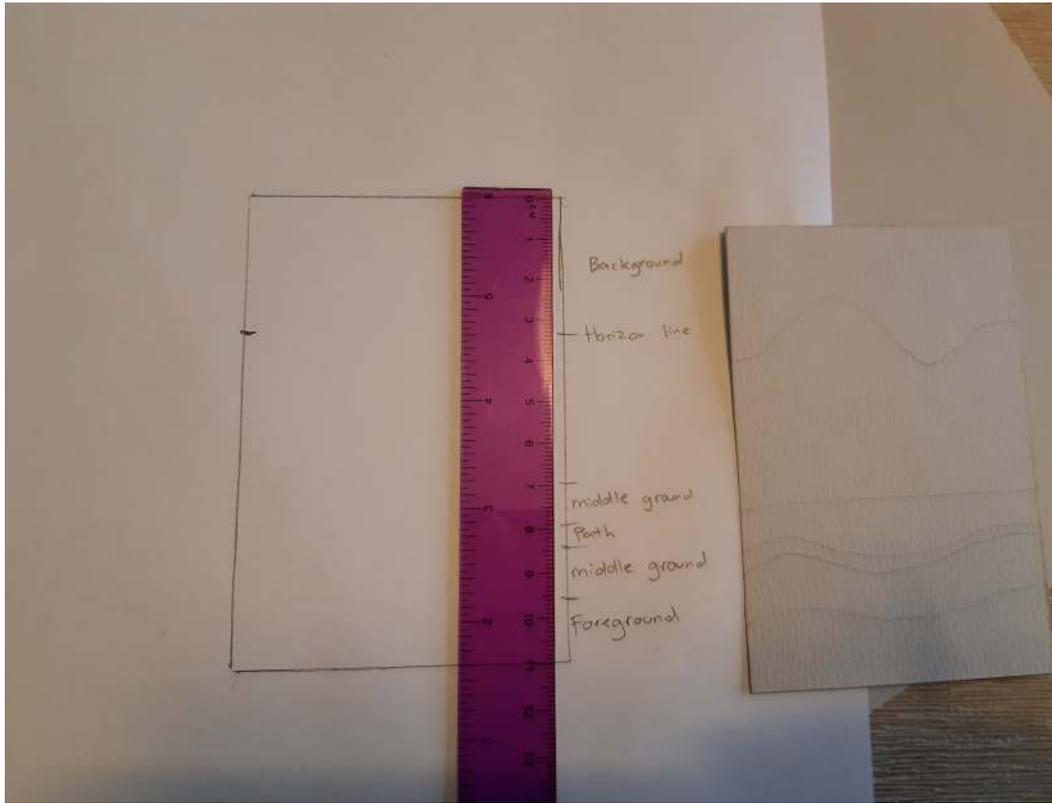


Step two:

Creating your template

Place one of your cards onto the plain white paper and trace around it (pictured left). Remove the card and mark out lines down one of the long edges of the template where each section (foreground, middle ground, horizon line and background etc) will go.

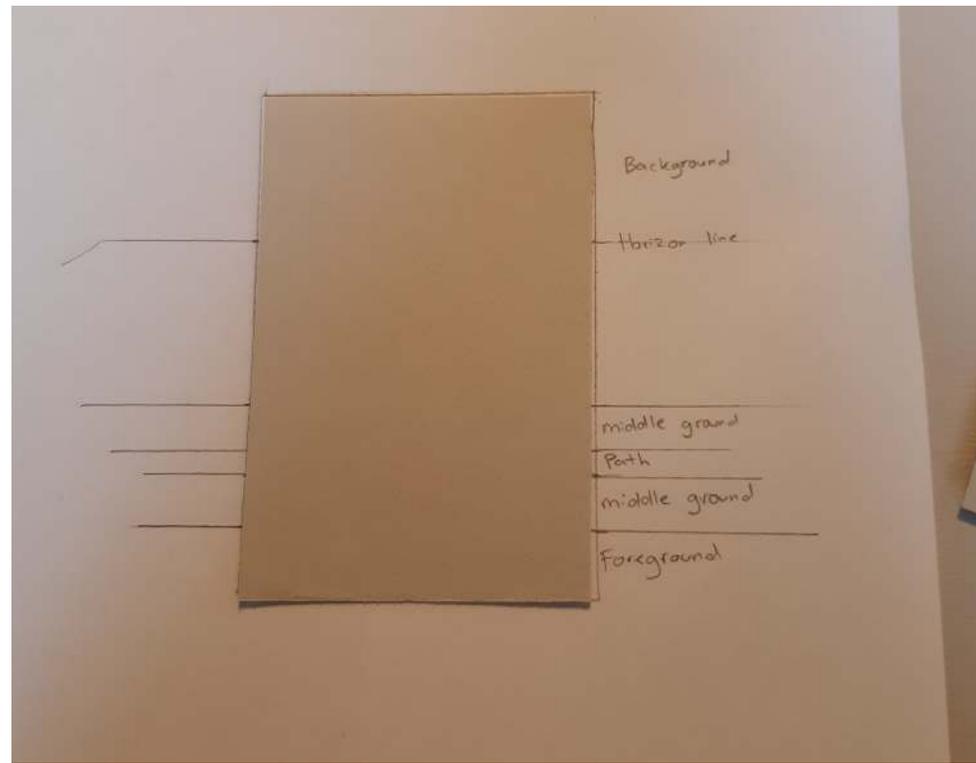
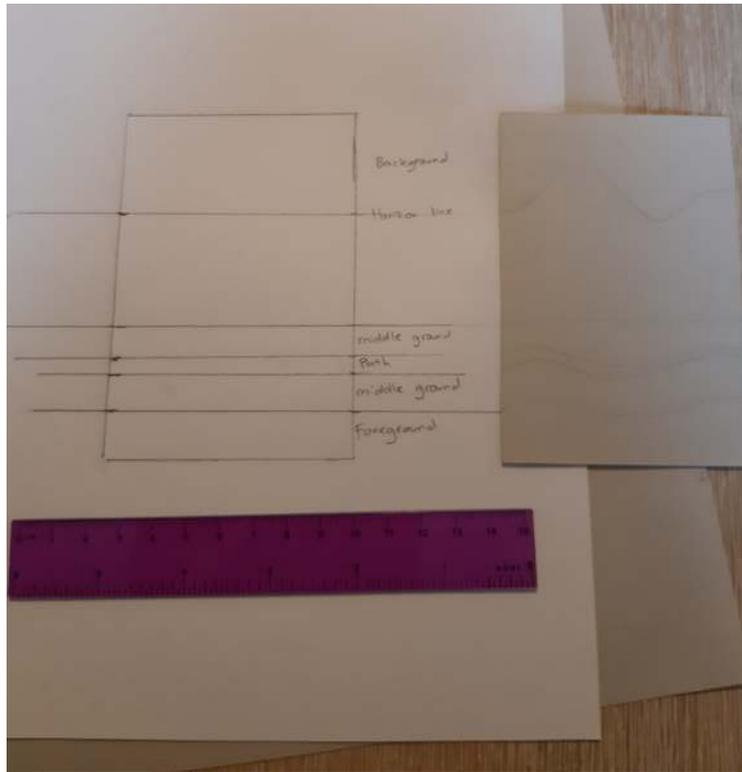
**NOTE: To make it easier and to get an idea of placement, roughly draw the foreground, middle ground and horizon lines on your first card as I did (pictured on the right) You can then use these lines to help draw the lines on your template.*



1. Measure the distance of your foreground, middle ground and horizon/ background lines along the long side of your template and mark on the opposite side as pictured.

Step two: template continued...

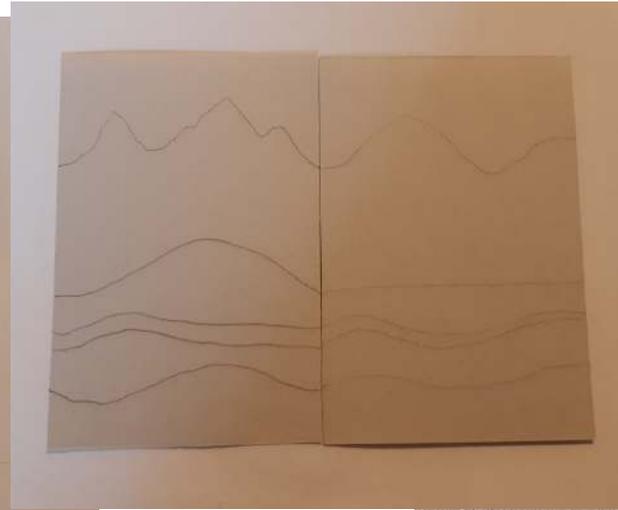
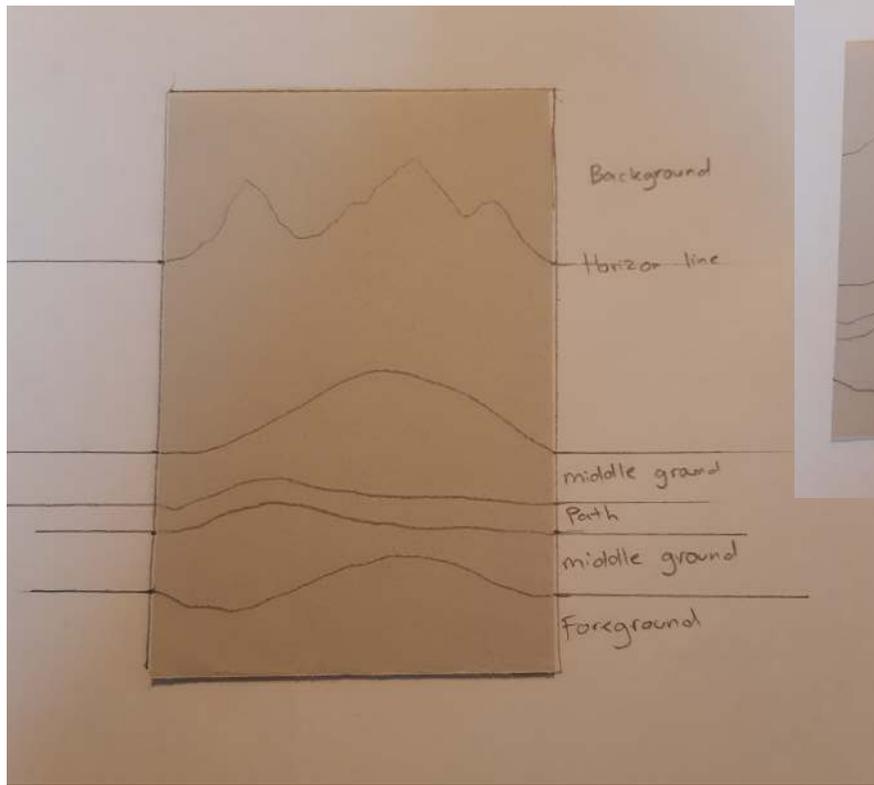
Use a ruler and measure each line and copy to the other side of the card so they are the same distance at each side.



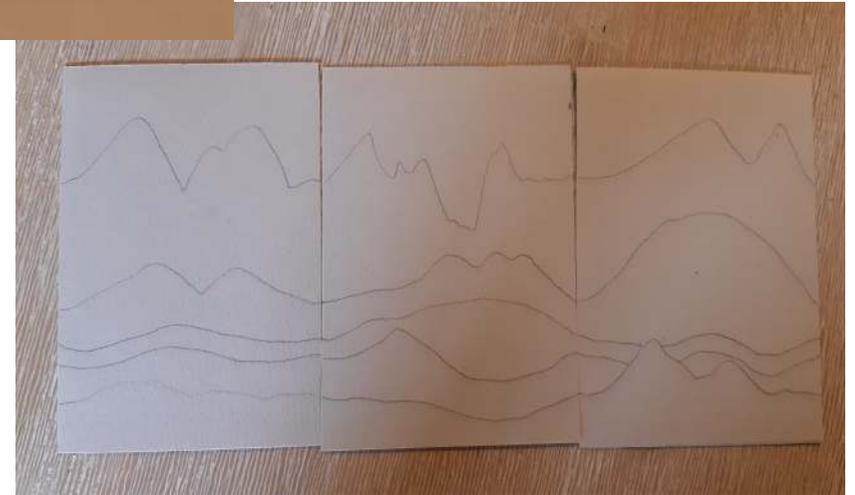
Mark the opposite side of your template the same distance along the edge and rule a line between both going past the edge of your card template

Step two: template continued...

Using your ruler draw a line across the card template lining up each mark. Continue the lines on each side of the template further across. If you like you can label each section so you don't forget what it is.

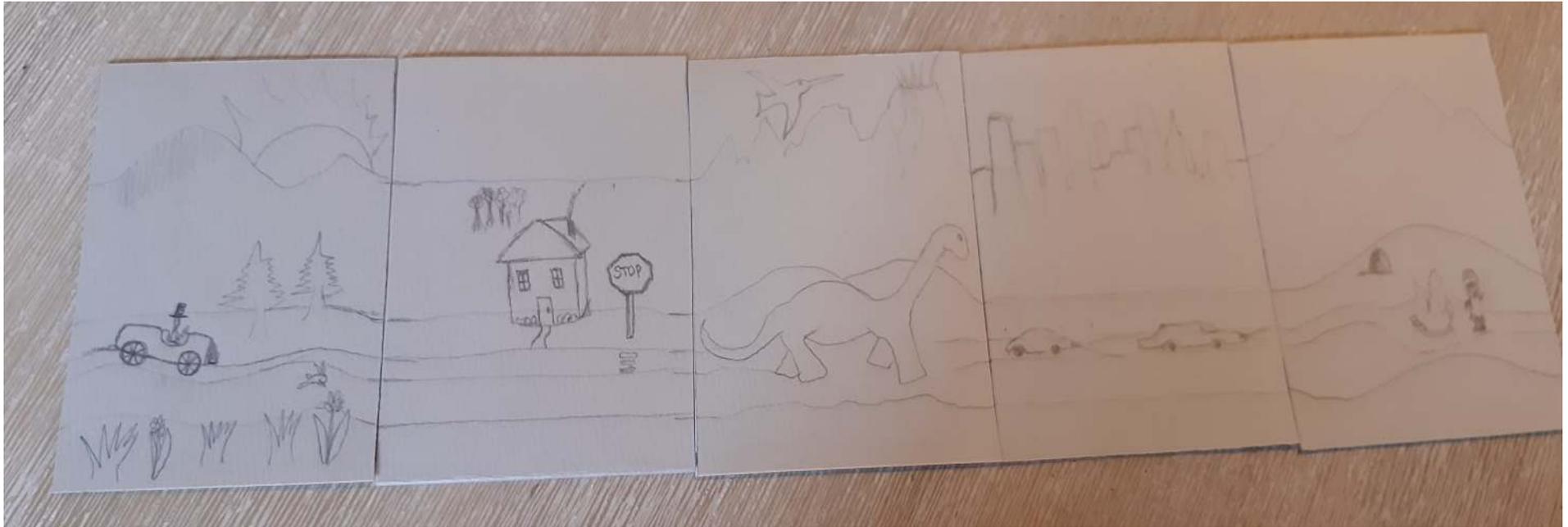


*NOTE: It's a good idea to keep checking your lines line up as you go.



Step three:

Its time to start drawing! Take your first card and place it on top of the template with the lines you have ruled. Use the lines as a guide to help you draw in the sections (foreground, middle ground and background etc.) Remember the lines can go anywhere in between as long as they start and finish on the edges where the marks are so that they will line up with other cards.



Step Four:

Continue drawing your landscapes on each card making sure to follow the lines on the template for foreground, middle ground and background. Add figures and objects and different things happening in each card. You can add people, animals, plants, buildings, whatever you can imagine. Don't have any of the objects exit the sides of the card, but keep them contained within each card as a whole picture.

**NOTE: It's a good idea to make sure the landscape lines are lining up as you go.*



Step Five:

Colour your drawings if you wish using coloured pencil, watercolour or any other art materials you like.



Create a card box to keep your Myriorama cards in when not in use

From: <https://www.thesprucecrafts.com/make-a-box-out-of-a-card-1251577>

You Will Need:

- A4 card
- Ruler
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Glue such as a glue stick
- Art materials such as paint, collage materials to decorate if you wish.





Step one:

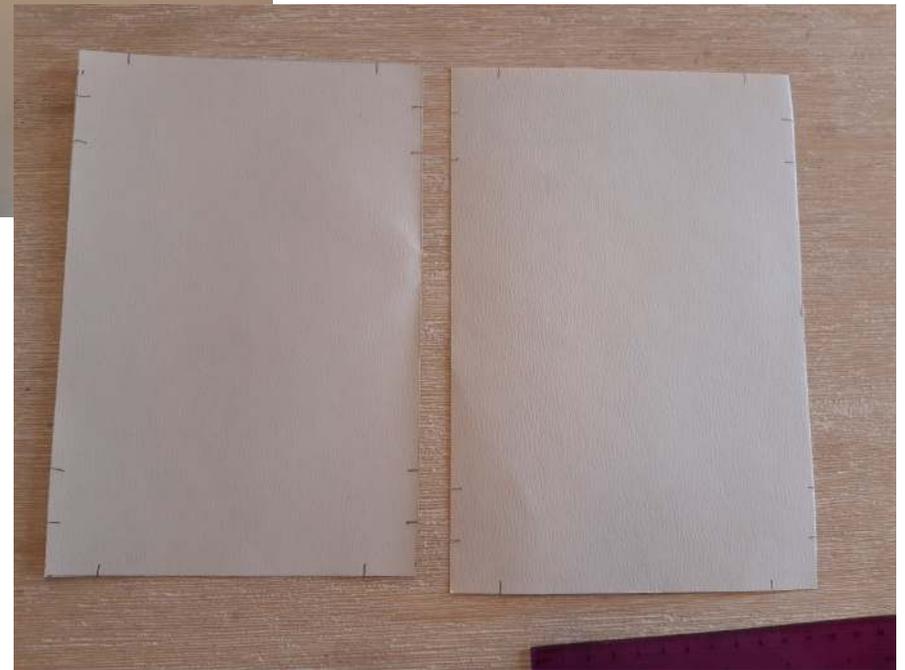
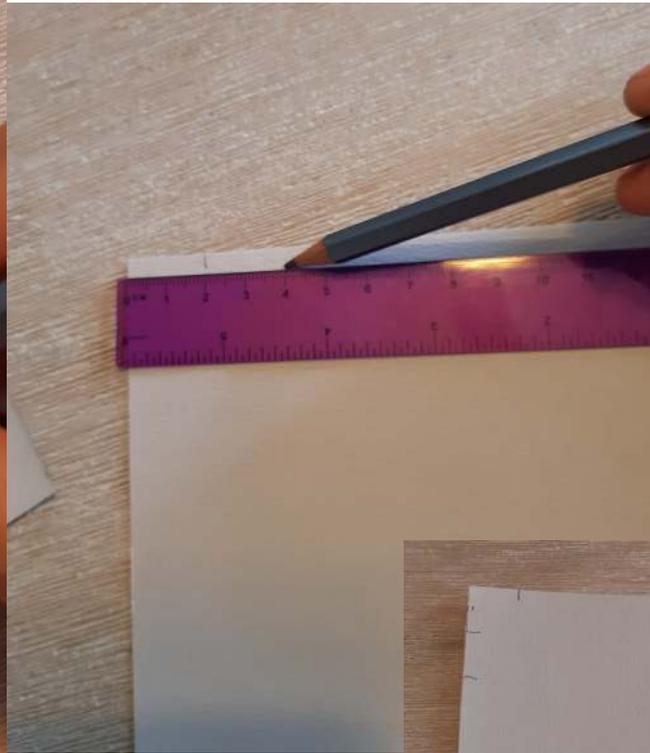
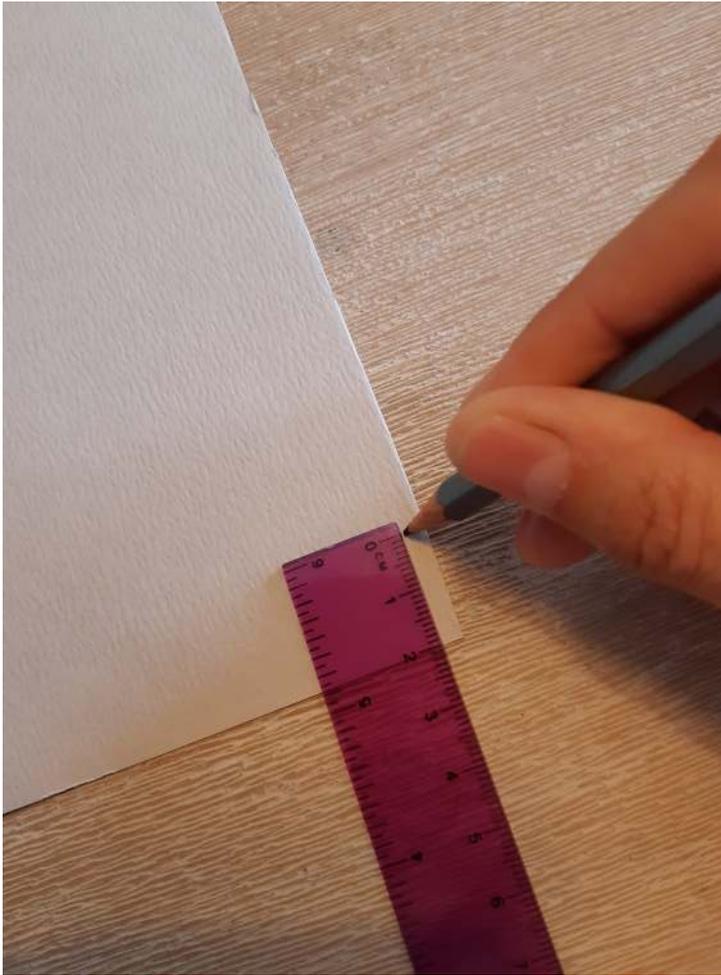
Fold your A4 card in half. Open back out and use scissors to cut in half.



Step two:

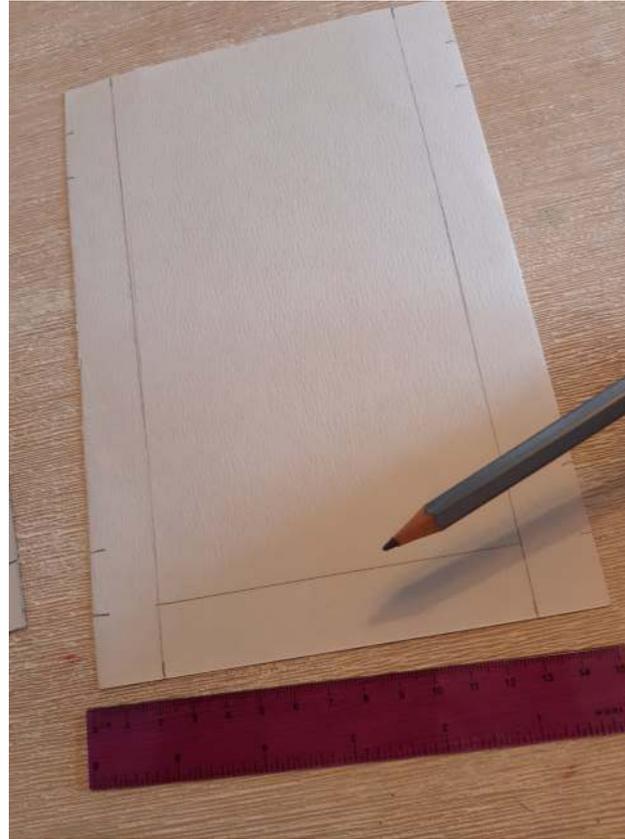
Use your ruler to measure 3mm in from the sides on one of the pieces of card. Mark and rule a line between marks as shown. Trim this off using the scissors.

**NOTE: This is to make your bottom part of the box slightly smaller so it fits inside the top part.*



Step Three:

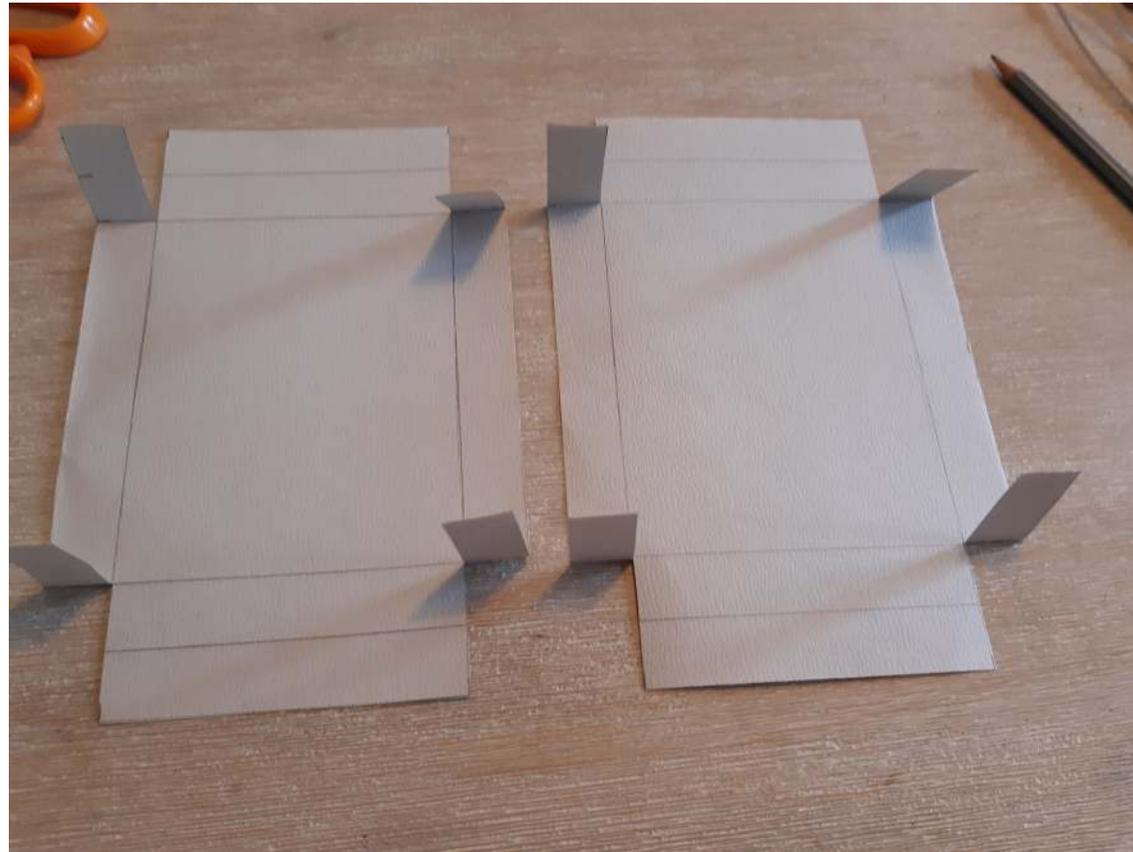
On both pieces of card, measure 2cm in from the short edges and mark with pencil as shown. On the long edges put a mark at 2cm and 4cm along.



Step four:

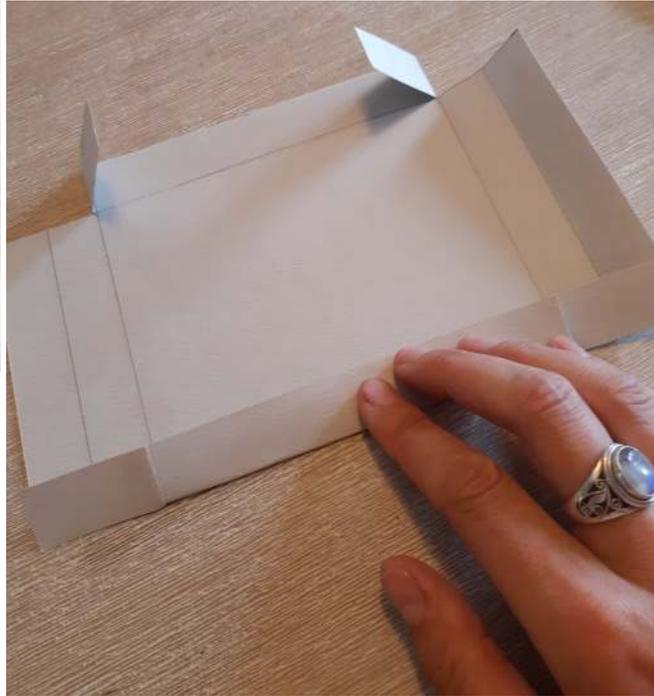
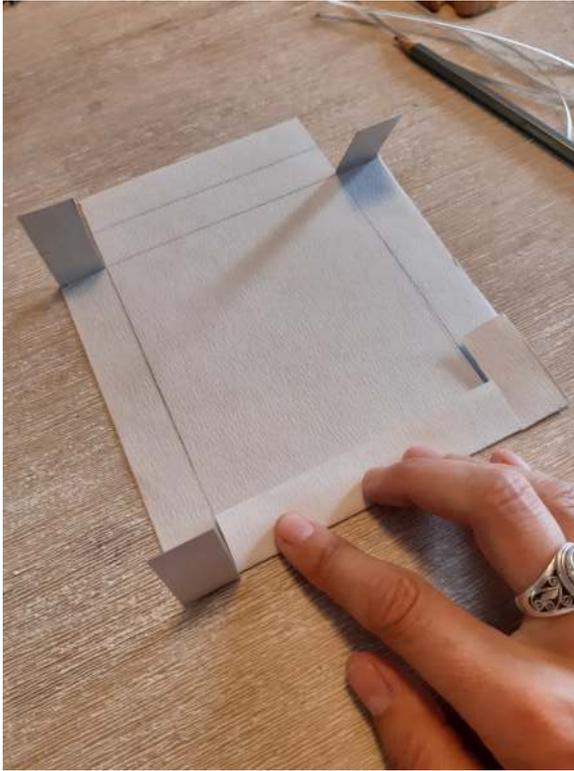
Use your ruler to rule lines between the marks as shown.

*NOTE: do not rule all the way across between the first marks on the short edges as shown.



Step five:

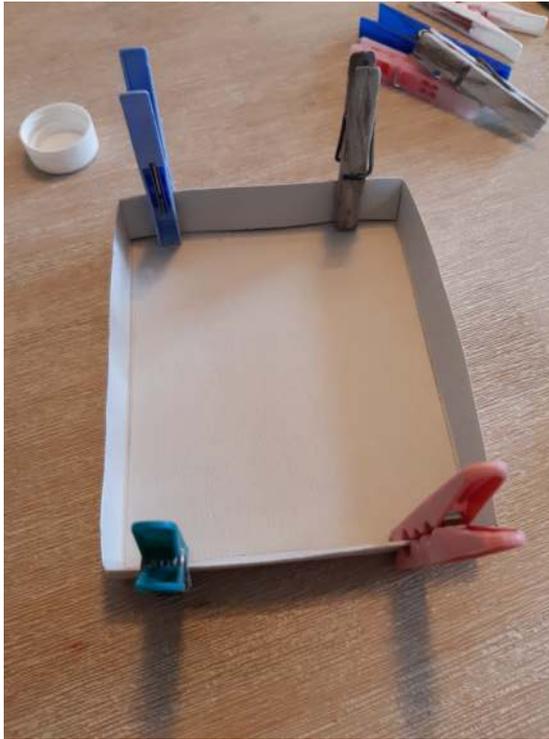
Use scissors to cut tabs out on the short edges and fold in as shown.



Step six:

Fold the card along the pencil lines as shown and glue down the inner edges to create the box shape. Repeat steps 1-7 for each piece (top and bottom). They should fit one inside the other.





*NOTE: you can use pegs to hold your box together while the glue dries.



The bottom half of the box should fit inside the top half.



To decorate my box I used collage all over it using tissue paper, gold paper and glue.

Step seven:

Decorate your card box if you wish using paints, pencils, collage, ribbon etc.



*Finished Myriorama
and box*





*Share your
Creations*

Send in pictures of your Myriorama and process to share with the *Home Is Where the 'Art Is* creative online community to:

artgallery@devonport.tas.gov.au

