

Mixed Media Hot Air Balloon

Today's mixed media art project is a creative and personal way for your kids to let loved ones know they miss them and are thinking of them.

MATERIALS:

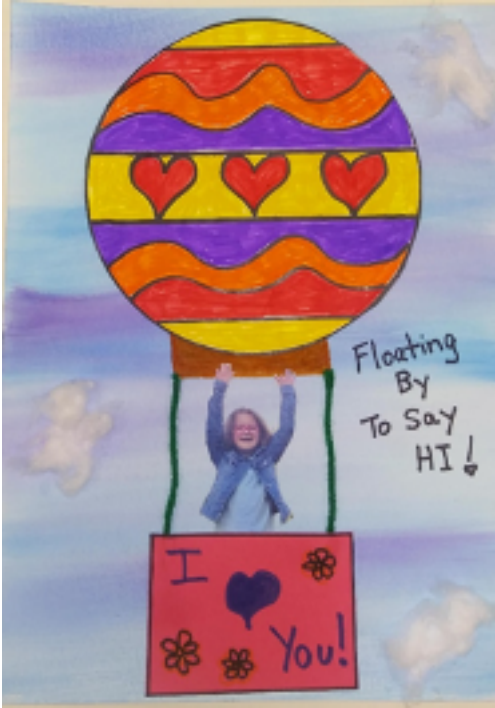
A camera.
A color printer.
Regular white copy paper.
Scissors.
Watercolor Paper [dimensions are based on a 9" x 12" sheet].
Watercolor Paints.
A couple of cups of clean water.
Two or three paintbrushes.
Colored markers (or crayons)
A piece of construction paper, color of your choice.
A piece of yarn about 8" long, color of your choice.
One or two cotton balls.
Glue Stick and/or Glue.
Exacto knife (optional)
Ruler (optional)
Sharpie (optional)

DIRECTIONS:

Adult take and print out a color photograph of your child (see below for tips).
Adults should use scissors or Exacto knife to cut out the image.
Adult print out one of the hot air balloon templates provided (one blank 6" diameter circle for kids to create their own design to color; two 6" diameter circles with pre-drawn designs for kids to color).
Apply wet-on-wet technique to watercolor paper canvas: paint entire surface with clear, clean water.
Use watercolors of your choice to paint the sky on the entire canvas. Set aside to dry. [Note: paper needs to be entirely dry before gluing on parts. Paper might curl up a little while drying; putting a heavy weight on top of it when it is dry will flatten it out].
Design and/or color your hot air balloon. Cut it out.
Glue the hot air balloon to the top of your watercolor. [A glue stick works best]
Draw a box/rectangle shape under the balloon.
Use a piece of construction paper for the basket. Cut out a piece approximately 3 1/2" W x 2 1/2" H.
Take the basket and your cut-out image and position them where you want them on the canvas.
Move the basket to the side for the time being, and glue on your cut-out image. [A glue stick works best]
Figure out what length of yarn you need to connect the corners of the box under the balloon to the basket. Cut two pieces of yarn a tad longer than you need; apply a strip of liquid glue on each side and attach the yarn "rope".
Before you glue on the basket, write a message on it and/or draw a design.
Glue the basket on, a little bit over the bottom of your image and over the ends of the yarn "rope".
If you want to, write on the canvas (using a Sharpie or colored marker) Floating By to Say Hi!
To make the clouds, take a cotton ball(s) and tease it apart. Apply glue to the parts of the canvas you want clouds, and stick the cotton pieces on to the glue.



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TIPS FOR THE PHOTO

The only part of the image you will be using is from the lower waist on up.

When deciding on the pose you want, consider that it will be much easier to cut out if: the arms are extended away from the body, and the fingers are not spread apart.

When considering what your kid should wear, remember that the background is probably going to be blueish.

When sizing the photo before you print it out, figure about 2" to

2 ¼" from where their body meets the basket to the top of their head.

