

Glass art - decorative products for different use



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Learning Objectives

1. To improve fine motor skills – by handling glass pieces, glue, and decorative materials with precision
2. To encourage creativity – through designing unique glass art using colors, textures, and patterns.
3. To Promote social interaction by collaborating on group activity and sharing design ideas.
4. To Develop problem-solving skills when assembling and balancing glass items.
5. To promote environmental awareness and learn about upcycling by transforming old glass jars/bottles into functional décor, reducing waste.
6. To foster social interaction – Group collaboration and idea-sharing will build connections during design and assembly.

Duration

Total duration for the activity is approximately 3-3.5 hours creative experience, ensuring individual attention and safety, keeping seniors interest and motivation.

Group Size

Group of 6-8 participants is recommended - enough to provide each person individual attention and ensure safe handling of materials, to have wonderful conversations and creative energy.

3.



Materials Needed

1. Glass jars, (clean and dry, labels removed)
2. Acrylic paint or glass paint
3. Paint brushes or sponges
4. Colorless varnish
5. Threads, ribbons, or decorative strips
6. Strong glue
7. Embellishments (beads, buttons, sequins) –
8. Alcohol & cotton pads (for cleaning glass)
9. Scissors (for cutting threads/ribbons)
10. Protective covering (newspaper/paper cover)

Adaptations and alternatives:

Pre-apply varnish to jars for shorter workshop time!

Alternative for the materials:

- Plastic jar, tin can, or clear vase
- Clear nail polish, decoupage glue
- Yarn, lace, fabric scraps
- Double-sided tape (for easier decoration)
- Dried flowers, magazine cutouts, stickers



Step-by-step Description

1. Preparing the glass jars

Glass jars need to be clean without dust or labels. Clean all glass jars thoroughly to remove dust and adhesive residue from labels. Using a cotton pad moistened with cleaning alcohol, wipe the exterior surface of each jar to eliminate oils and ensure optimal paint adhesion.

2. Design Application

Select acrylic or glass-specific paints in your desired color palette. Apply paint using smooth, even brush strokes to create your chosen design (stripes, dots, patterns, etc.). Allow painted designs to dry completely (15-20 minutes)

3. Protective Coating

To protect the item and give it a glossy finish, carefully brush on a layer of clear varnish. Ensure complete coverage of painted surfaces for maximum water resistance. Let the varnish dry for 20-30 minutes in a clean area. As it dries (about 20-30 minutes), you can have a break and chat about designs with other participants.

4. Decoration/Embellishment

You can add some sparkle and texture! Select decorative elements (ribbons, beads, etc.) and arrange in your choice. Wrap elegant threads or ribbons around the jar, securing them with a dab of strong glue appropriate for glass surfaces. Embellish with beads, buttons, or even small seashells—press them gently for 10 seconds to ensure they stay on the item.

5. Final Steps

- Let your jar dry completely (at least 30 minutes). After a final 30-minute drying period, your creation is ready to shine! Place a flickering candle inside to cast a warm glow, or fill it with fresh flowers for a interesting centerpiece. Add flameless LED candles or insert pens for functional display.

TO BETTER UNDERSTAND THE WRITTEN EXPLANATION, WATCH THE VIDEO. [CLICK HERE.](#)

3.



Learning Outcomes

1. Improve hand dexterity and coordination through precise painting and careful placement of decorative elements on glass surfaces.
2. Express personal creativity by designing unique color patterns and decorative arrangements for their upcycled glass items.
3. Appreciate sustainable practices by converting ordinary glass containers into beautiful, functional pieces of art.
4. Enjoy meaningful social connections through collaborative design discussions and sharing creative ideas with peers.
5. Feel a sense of personal achievement by completing and displaying their own handcrafted practical, decorative items for daily use.

Tips and Adaptations

- Pre-painted jars and peel-and-stick decorations allow instant creativity without complex steps.
- Use larger glass bases (jars) and bigger decorations (beads, buttons).
- Make sure the glass is without sharp edges and safe to use
- Wear safety gloves to protect hands from glass edges and ensure all materials are secure on a stable surface.
- Handling Materials: Work in an area with good air flow when using glue or varnish and allow all items to dry fully in a safe place before use.
- Staff Support: Helpers ready to adjust any step - ensuring every senior can participate comfortably.

Ideas for Inspiration

- [1. https://www.youtube.com/shorts/O-wuOiWhlOg](https://www.youtube.com/shorts/O-wuOiWhlOg)
- [2. https://www.youtube.com/shorts/4CBIKcYv6vo](https://www.youtube.com/shorts/4CBIKcYv6vo)
- [3. https://www.youtube.com/shorts/tBy8MIaHRII](https://www.youtube.com/shorts/tBy8MIaHRII)
- [4. https://www.youtube.com/shorts/JlnV_Isu23s](https://www.youtube.com/shorts/JlnV_Isu23s)
- [5. https://www.youtube.com/shorts/V5BUcjAG9yw](https://www.youtube.com/shorts/V5BUcjAG9yw)
- [6. https://www.youtube.com/shorts/YQ6sYmU6G3o](https://www.youtube.com/shorts/YQ6sYmU6G3o)