



ROY INMAN | SPECIAL TO THE STAR

CREATE A SPACE FOR ARTISTIC ENDEAVORS

Drawers, shelves, boards and even clotheslines can hold supplies and display projects.

Artwork and art supplies multiply at an alarming rate. My husband and I wanted ways to display the kids' creations to encourage and celebrate their creativity as they grow. The art room naturally is a place to display projects, and we have several ways to do so in our home.

A clothesline strung along the windows with two-dimensional pieces attached with clothespins is a simple solution. I've seen fancy versions made from stainless steel cables and metal clips, but in our casual art room, a simple string and clothespins are fine.

Tackboards create another display area. We wrapped Homasote panels with fabric

and nailed them to the end of a cabinet. (Homasote is a type of building material made of recycled paper. It's available for about \$27 for a 4-by-8-foot sheet at Schutte Lumber, 3001 Southwest Blvd., and Albert Tamm Lumber Co., 3232 E. 18th St.)

Another option is cork squares, which could be painted or stained. I've also seen Flor modular carpet tiles (www.flor.com for local stores and online ordering) attached to a wall and used with tacks.

Magnet boards display artwork without piercing it. An entire wall painted with magnetic paint makes a seamless, invisible display area. And when you want to take the artwork off and make the area more presentable, it becomes a "blank canvas."

Picture rails, if deep enough, can display sculptures and models. Framed artwork and photos can be layered. We just used



our window sills and the window seat.

Art supplies need a variety of storage and organization. Keeping everything in one room reduces the clutter through the rest of the house.

Vertical storage accommodates poster boards and large sheets of paper. We have a slot at the end of the cabinets, but this may be accomplished as simply as by leaving a gap between two file cabinets.

Shelves hold notebooks and larger items. The adjustable shelf spacing allows for a shallow shelf at the top, which holds standard papers and trays of beads and rubber stamps. The trays are frozen dinner trays and work nicely to contain tiny items that roll or are better separated.

Cubbies are deep enough in our custom cabinets to contain rolls of craft paper and wrapping paper without crushing them or

ripping the paper. If you can't do this, a trash can holds rolls nicely.

Drawers are organized with labels showing their contents. This storage tower has removable drawers so supplies can be carried to the table. In addition to supplies each child has his or her own drawer for projects in progress or special supplies. Our neighbor even has her own drawer, since she creates here as much as our kids.

Cabinets hide really messy storage and random items that aren't used as often.

Buckets contain markers, crayons and colored pencils. We have simple galvanized buckets, and the handles are great for carrying.

Boxes with lids stack nicely and hold felt and fabric scraps.

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