

# DAYTON ART INSTITUTE

**ARTventures**  
... at home!

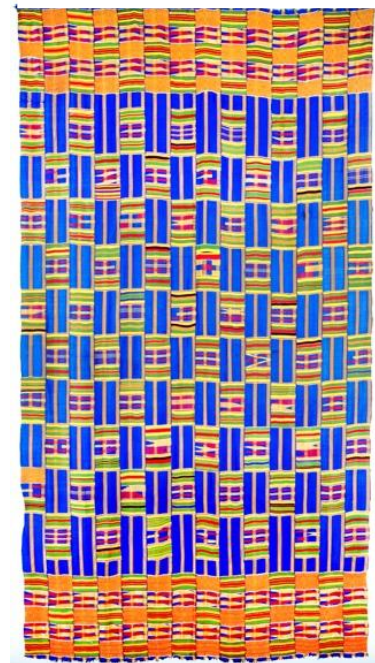


## *Shaping Peace Together: Collaborative Chalk Mural*

In partnership with the Dayton International Peace Museum, the Dayton Art Institute offers this guide to creating a collaborative chalk mural.



Robert Indiana (American, 1928–2018), *Love*, 1968, lithograph in colors on paper #44/100. Gift of the Price Brothers Company, Mr. Harry S. Price, Jr., Mr. Gayle B. Price, Jr. and Ms. Pamela Houk. 1998.62



Asante people, *Kente Cloth*, 20<sup>th</sup> century, cotton, silk, dye. Gift of Willis Bing and Audrey Davis in memory of Fred Davis. 2002.44

### Materials Needed:

- sidewalk chalk, approx. 24 sticks
- house paint brushes
- water spray bottle
- pencil and paper
- tape measure
- paper towels
- water bowl



### Optional:

- chalk pastels, various colors
- work gloves and knee pads
- dustpan and broom



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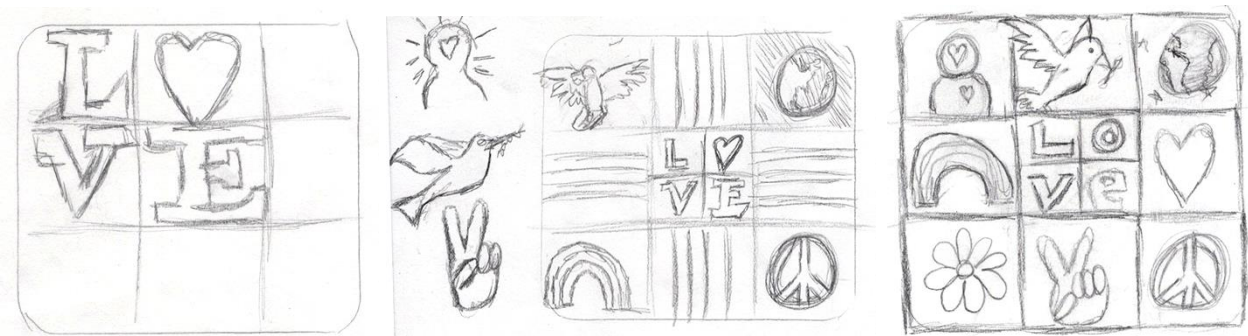
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## Step 1

Write a list of words and symbols that best represent or describe the idea of peace. Draw a square grid (ex: 3 x 3, 4 x 4, etc.) and create several concept drawings including these together in the grid.

**Helpful hint:** each word or symbol can fit into one or fill several squares. Grid squares could feature just a solid color or pattern. If desired, include color pencils for sketches.

**Helpful hint:** collaborate with family members, friends, etc. on ideas!



## Step 2

Find a large surface for mural (ex: driveway). Sweep away any loose debris from the area. Use a tape measure and chalk to draw out a grid (ex: for a 3' x 3' mural, each square is 1' x 1').

**Note:** get permission to draw on a surface before starting. Location should be an area where rain can wash it away for easy clean up.

**Helpful hint:** wear work gloves and knee pads to protect skin from scrapes and cuts.



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## Step 3

In each square, draw an outline of each symbol or design with chalk. Any grid squares that will only be a solid color should remain blank at this step.

**Helpful hint:** use white or light-colored chalk. Darker colors will darken other colors added on top.

**Helpful hint:** to erase lines, use a large paint brush, paper towels, or lightly spray area with water bottle.



## Step 4

Color in all larger color areas with sidewalk chalk. Press hard with chalk and use hands (gloves highly recommended,) a paint brush, or paper towels to spread color over a large area. Add several layers of chalk to ensure rich color in mural. Wash hands or brush with water in bowl as necessary between colors to prevent accidental color mixing.

**Helpful hint:** work from the center of the mural to the outside or from top to bottom to prevent smearing.



**Helpful hint:** use at least two brushes—one for lighter colors, one for darker colors to reduce brush cleaning time. Add lighter colors first (white, yellow) then slowly go darker (blue, brown). Mix by layering colors on top of each other and blending them together with brush or hand.





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## Step 5

Add darkest lines, more vivid color layers, details, and line accents last.

**Helpful hint:** use fine chalk pastels for extra rich color and fine details. Add black lines as the very last step to prevent unintentional color darkening. Redraw grid lines in black (or color of your choice) and/or add a color frame for a finishing touch if desired.



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## Extra Challenge

Weave colorful patterns inspired by African [Kente cloth](#) designs. Choose color combinations that symbolize peace and collaboration (ex: use the favorite colors of all individuals who created the mural together). Include patterns inside of squares or even as a frame for the finished mural.

## Resources

[Visit the United Nations website to read about International Peace Day](#)

[Learn more about the Dayton International Peace Museum](#)

[Video tutorial: how to create chalk paint](#)

## Questions?

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