

talc. ART PACK

My world in a box workshop

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Take a look at the six main plywood sections that will create your box once fitted together, and read through instructions to work out how to assemble your box, but paint it first!

- 1 Paint your background onto the inner side of the back section (acrylic paint will work best) or use a postcard sized picture. You can also paint the inside of the top, bottom and side panels if that's the finish you would like for your box.
- 2 Place the back panel so that the hooks face left. The top and bottom panels will slot onto the back-panel hooks.
- 3 Attach the top panel (identified by the small round holes and semi-circle cut-outs) so that the semi-circle cut-out is at the back of the box – slide it on so that the top panel sits central. Attach the bottom panel (identified by 4 rows of broken line cut-outs) in the same way.
- 4 Push the side panel onto the slots, make sure that the hooks are facing upwards towards the top of the box. Make sure that all edges are flush once all parts have been put together.
- 5 Slide the front frame onto the hooks – the frame is designed to be slightly wider towards the bottom.
- 6 We have supplied some pre-cut plywood parts for you to use to create an imagined world inside your box. They can be decorated in any way you want – paint them, draw on them, use collage – anything goes! Use the slot cut-outs on the bottom and top panels for attaching them to your box. If the parts are wobbling, apply some glue to the slot.
- 7 Add lighting to your box by inserting LEDs through the holes on the top panel.



Joseph Cornell: Tilly Losch, 1935



Joseph Cornell: Hotel Eden, 1945

Joseph Cornell (1903-72) was the pioneer of assemblage art. He created curious worlds of long ago and far away in his boxes of found objects. He built his assemblage boxes in the small wooden house in Queens, New York, that he shared with his mother, where he also cared for his younger brother who suffered from Cerebral Palsy. Cornell hardly ever left the basement of this house, but he travelled widely in his work. His boxes referenced the culture of long-ago European capitals, and allowed the past to make itself present. These boxes were called Shadow Boxes. *“Shadow boxes become poetic theater or settings wherein are metamorphosed the elements of a childhood pastime,”* Cornell once explained.

TALC’s “my world in a box” art pack comes with a selection of pre-cut plywood parts that you can use to create your tiny world, but you don’t have to use all (or any) of them! We have supplied acrylic paints and brushes, but of course you can add other materials and use different techniques.

You can also send us drawings for elements you want us to laser cut.

Our boxes come with LED lights, so we are diverging from Cornell’s Shadow Boxes to create a collection of Light Boxes. We aim to collect the Light Boxes together to show them in the window display at TALC during the winter months, behind glass – as Joseph Cornell would have done it. The display will grow over time – the more boxes, the more little lights in Tarbert.

PLEASE WRITE YOUR NAME AND SCHOOL ON THE BACK OF YOUR BOX AND SEND IT BACK TO TALC.!

This art pack is created for talc.’s community project *my world in a box*, funded by Creative Communities.