

Menu des Projets d'Art pour la Route à Travers Paris

(Menu of Arts Projects for the Road Through Paris)

Here is a menu of some favorite arts projects to do together with your group, friends or community for the global public demonstrations on the **“Road Through Paris”** -- before, during and beyond the global UN climate talks and mass mobilizations in Paris and around the world this Nov-Dec. We will be pushing world governments to agree to a climate deal that's in line with the imperatives of science and justice: keep 80% of fossil fuels in the ground and finance a just transition to 100% renewable energy by 2050. And we will keep building a global movement to make it happen whether or not they listen.

Best wishes and have fun! --David Solnit, North American Arts Organizer, 350.org

Crossbar Flags: Painted fabric crossbar style painted fabric flags with sticks on top and bottom and attached to poles are very visible.



1.

Here's how to make one--or many:

1) GET AND CUT FABRIC:

Choose a lightweight muslin, cotton, polyester or other lightweight non-stretchy white fabric. White sheets are also good, and damaged ones can sometimes be had for free from industrial laundry companies. Cut--or tear after an initial cut--to size. I usually make these flags about 24 x 40 inches, allowing 6 inches to wrap around the top/bottom sticks. You can adjust the flag size to make best use of the size of fabric you have. One reason I choose a light fabric is so the light will shine through if the sun is behind the flag.

2) STAPLE/TAPE DOWN:

I create a painting table with a sheet of not-too-rough plywood placed on top of a table or sawhorses, and then staple the flag fabric to the plywood in four corners, pulling it tightly so there are no wrinkles. You can also do this with masking or duct tape.

3) DESIGN/LAYOUT: Draw your design -- first on paper, then on the flag fabric. TIPS: Less is more; keeping to a few shorter words and simple bold images makes it stronger and easier to read. A light/dark contrast makes it readable. One option is to paint a light color over the whole flag, priming it, let it dry, then draw your design and paint with much darker colors.

Remember, the more complex your image, the more time it will take. Using a straight edge, mark the top/bottom edges of your words. If you need help spacing, count the number of letters in each line and dividing in $\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{1}{4}$ guide for where they go on the flag.

4) PAINT: I paint flags and banners with latex (water clean up) house paint. You can also use artists acrylic paints. Don't use tempera paint--it smears easily and runs if it gets wet. I put the paint into a plastic container and thin with water a bit to make it flow--easier to paint with, but not so much it bleeds or looks thin. Let the flag dry, then pull it off the plywood. NOTE: you can also choose to screen print or spray-paint stencil the flags, maybe adding a handpainted element too.

5) ATTACH TO STICKS

I use wood lath, narrow wood strips (1 1/2 x 1/8 inch) like was once used to back plaster walls and is now used for fence trellises. You can buy it either for fence lattice and garden trellis or for plaster walls. A clear (no big knots) 2x4 can be ripped on a tablesaw. But, you can use whatever you can get. Cut the stick an inch shorter than the fabric, so it's not visible or sharp. Use a staple gun to staple the edge of the fabric to the outside edge of the stick. Roll the stick over twice and securely staple the fabric to the stick. Use 1/4 inch staples--or just shorter than the wood thickness, to avoid sharp edges. Do this at the top and bottom. Then get your vertical flag pole; I usually use 8 foot tall, 1x2 inch "furring strips" making sure they don't have big knots that might break while carrying. I

get 3/4 to 1 inch washerhead screws, or wood or sheet metal screws, and use a cordless drill with a phillips bit to screw the middle of the top and bottom of the flag sticks securely into the vertical flagpole. I either assemble them onsite to make transport easier or else bundle them up 4 -6 per bundle for transport and carrying to site.

6) CARRY! Are they in the best place and facing the right direction? Do you want them to move as a line or groups of flags, or with some choreography? They can be a powerful visual positioned right behind a hand-held banner people hold below their heads.