



Indoor-ish & Fairly Free Artist Date Ideas

Intuitive sketching: Create an inspiring playlist and sketch or paint while focusing on the sound of the music and what feels enjoyable. Don't worry about it having to look like anything. Just play.

Treat yourself to a home spa. Pick what you'd enjoy. Maybe a feet salt soak, face mask, and dry body brushing? Or paint your nails fun, luxuriate with a body scrub, hair mask and relaxing music? Or settle into a warm bath with candles, wine, or a good book.

Make an inspirational pinterest board. What do you enjoy? What would you like to try? Make a board of DIY ideas. Feng Shui interiors. Art inspirations. Self care ideas. Favorite quotes. Landscaping ideas. Crafts. Favorite fabrics or quilting patterns. Cute baby animal pictures. Fashion ideas you love. Tasty recipe ideas. Places you'd like to travel. Simple pleasures. Step-by-step art projects. Anything that makes you feel nice.

Embrace the transition of nature with a mandala. Take a walk in nature and collect various items- small stones, leaves, sticks, seeds, flowers, petals, etc. and arrange them in different patterns as concentric circles.

Sketch natural inspirations. Bring a sketchbook into nature, a park, a walk around the neighborhood, or even your yard. Draw different leaves, flowers, landscapes, or different unique patterns found in nature.

Paint some rocks. Find some rocks in your garden or local park. Bring them home and wash off any excess debris or dirt. After the rocks are dry, use acrylic paint to add whatever you'd like. You can paint dot mandala designs with the hard tip of a paintbrush. Paint flowers, patterns, a nice word, or just abstract colors. Leave them back in a park or trail to bring a bit of joy to passers by.

Enjoy some poetry. Most of us appreciate poetry, but rarely make an intentional effort to read and experience it. Spend an hour or more reading some of your favorites. Playing classical music and/or burning some incense can make the experience feel more like your own time for inspiration and peace.

Random Notes Kindness. Write affirmations or nice hopeful notes/quotes on post-its and leave them in books at different Little Free Libraries, during a nice neighborhood walk.

Go for a photo walk. Going for a walk with a camera, even if it's just the camera on your phone, is a great way to explore the world around you in a new way. By focusing on specific types of things or themes: maybe flowers, or circles, or things of a specific color, you notice the ordinary from a new perspective. If you can't leave the house at all, you can do this at home and it'll give you a whole new way of looking at the beauty and interest of your own environment.

Try origami. Chances are you haven't tried origami since you were a child, but it's a fun and relaxing way to pass the time, if paper folding interests you. Here are all sorts of fun origami animal patterns and instructions for various skill levels. Check out this site: <https://origami.me/diagrams/>

Go on a virtual museum tour. Due to COVID-19 and intermittent lockdowns many museums have virtually thrown open their doors to visitors, for peaceful and informative hours can be spent wandering the digital corridors. This list is a great place to start: <https://elitetraveler.com/design-culture/10-best-virtual-museum-tours>

Create a vision board. Use old magazines and scissors to cut out all the images, inspirations, and phrases that speak to you. Adhere the images with tape, glue, or glue stick, onto a large piece of cardboard. What do you envision for yourself this year?

Make a natural sculpture. Go to your garden, a local park, or a beach, and collect leaves, shells, stones or twigs that appeal to you. Take them home and arrange them in order of size or color, in a line or a circle, or connect them together with handmade paper, twine, and metal wire. You can film yourself doing this with a stop-motion app and make a little film of your process.

Browse an art book. Give yourself an hour or so to enjoy browsing through an art book, relax with nice music and enjoy the work. Are there images that are poetically inspiring? Are there styles you'd like to try? Color palettes? Do you feel drawn to certain artistic styles or themes? You can also sketch pieces or elements that inspire you.

Draw a self-portrait. Drawing oneself can be an act of self love or at least self investigation. It doesn't matter how good you are at drawing; what matters is that you are taking the time to really look at yourself and appreciate your physical self for being the amazing and strong form that has kept you alive your whole life.

Write postcards to friends and family. There is something much more meaningful about a postcard than an text message or email. Buy pretty and unique postcards to support your favorite local shop. If you're feeling creative, you can make your own by using thick cardstock cut to 4" x 6" or 5" x 7"! Spend some time writing to the people you love or you've lost touch with.

Make a spotify playlist. Choose a genre you love, or a time in your life, and try to make the ultimate playlist. Enjoy it on a walk, car ride, or (even dancing while cleaning house to bring more fun to your work).

Try a new art style craft or DIY project with YouTube or Zoom class. Real life art classes are great to, if that's an option for you. But if not, many talented art teachers have gone online. Get on YouTube and search for "art tutorials" "Step by step crafts" or "DIY art projects" to get started.

Movie night. Dim the lights and choose something you wouldn't normally watch - maybe a foreign, classic black and white film, or movie you've been meaning to watch. You can enhance the experience with themed snacks or drinks.

Really listen to music. We rarely take the time to fully immerse ourselves in music. Create a playlist, or choose a beloved album, then sit and listen. Try to avoid doing anything else, simply close your eyes or relax your gaze and allow the music to envelope you.