

# Painted Locket

(art + social studies; art + character studies)

Over the centuries and across many cultures, lockets have been worn as tiny, portable treasure chests to carry something of value to the wearer.

In ancient cultures, a locket might carry medicine or a good luck charm. Since medieval times, lockets have been used to carry mementos of a loved one, such as a lock of hair or scrap of clothing. Prior to photography, artists tediously created miniature paintings to place inside elegant metal casings.

As an expression of personal character and values, students can create a locket using a miniature canvas. The front side is painted and the back side is used to display a small photo or “treasure” — something that has meaning to the student. Two canvases can also be hinged together to function as a small case in which objects could actually be carried.



Above: Mini Canvas painted with Blick Artist's acrylics. Photo insert on back, jewelry wire hanging and glass beads.

Left: Child's art, painted with Sargent Metallic Acrylic. Clay heart insert on back, ribbon hanging and plastic beads.

## Grade Levels K-12

*Note: instructions and materials based on a class of 25 students. Adjust as needed.*

## Process

1. Design the front and sides of the canvas. Ideas:
  - Paint landscapes, portraits, faux finishes, textures, letters, etc. with acrylic colors. Use metallic or glitter paint for special effects.
  - Use your favorite rubber stamp and inks.
  - Make a monogram locket with initials created with a permanent calligraphy marker.
  - Make a paper collage instead of, or in addition to painting.
  - For a gloss finish, coat with Gloss Medium.

## Materials

Blick Studio® Mini Canvas, 2" x 2" (07147-1022) or 2-1/2" x 3-1/2" (07147-1023), need one per student

**Materials for Painting and Decorating, recommend:**

Blick Artist's Acrylic (00624-1029) or Blickrylic Student Acrylics (00711-1049), assorted colors

Sargent Art® Metallic Acrylic Paint (00730-9015), assorted colors

Sakura® Pen Touch Calligraphy Pen (20817-4052)

Decorative Paper Assortment (12440-1005)

Blick Academic Golden Taklon Round Brushes (05838-1008), size 8 or smaller

Blick Artist's Acrylic Polymer Gloss Medium (00623-1036)

**Materials for Hanging, recommend:**

Jewelry Wire (60688-2024)

Leather Cord, (61517-2051) Black, Brown or Natural

Assorted Beads and Jewelry Findings

## Process, continued

- Design the back side of the canvas. Ideas:
  - Paint the wood and center “pocket” with acrylic colors to complement the front or wrap painted image around to the back side.
  - Glue a small photo into the pocket space.
  - Glue a small keepsake in the pocket — a piece of jewelry, a lock of hair or other small object.
  - Create an object with air-dry clay or cut paper. Glue in the pocket space.
- Make a pendant or hanging ornament. Ideas:
  - Cut a narrow ribbon 24” to 30” long. Glue it to the sides and bottom of the canvas. Tie a knot at the top of the canvas, add beads, then tie the ends of the ribbon together.
  - Wrap jewelry wire around the corners of the canvas, create a loop at the top and hang from a piece of leather cord.
  - Shape jewelry wire tightly around edge of canvas. Paint over wire with a coat of clear Gel Medium (00623-1014) to hold in place.

## Options

- Fasten a small hinge between two mini canvases to create a locket that actually opens up OR a small box.



Above: mini canvas covered with decorative paper, joined with a small hinge

## National Standards

Content Standard #1 — Understanding and applying media, techniques, and processes

**K-4** Students use different media, techniques, and processes to communicate ideas, experiences, and stories

**5-8** Students select media, techniques, and processes; analyze what makes them effective or not effective in communicating ideas; and reflect upon the effectiveness of their choices

**9-12** Students conceive and create works of visual art that demonstrate an understanding of how the communication of their ideas relates to the media, techniques, and processes they use

Content Standard #3 — Choosing and evaluating a range of subject matter, symbols, and ideas

**K-4** Students select and use subject matter, symbols and ideas to communicate meaning

**5-8** Students use subjects, themes, and symbols that demonstrate knowledge of contexts, values, and aesthetics that communicate intended meaning in artworks

**9-12** Students evaluate and defend the validity of sources for content and the manner in which subject matter, symbols, and images are used in the students’ works and in significant works by others



Above: Front side painted with Blick Artist’s acrylics.

Right: Back side with paper cut-out