

# Jackie's Art IDEA!

Imagine - Discover - Explore - Art

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## NEWSLETTER

### Jennifer Maestre, Sculptor

Jennifer specializes in sculptures that use tiny things: nails and window screen, beads and sharp pencils only 1" long. Check out her really cool work at [www.jennifermaestre.com](http://www.jennifermaestre.com)!

The artist says: "To make the pencil sculptures, I take hundreds of pencils, cut them into 1-inch sections, drill a hole in each section (to turn them into beads), sharpen them all and sew them together with string or wire. The beading technique I rely on most is peyote stitch. I'm inspired by animals, plants, other art, ... mythology. In fact, it isn't easy to specify particular sources of inspiration. Sometimes one sculpture will inspire the next, or maybe I'll make a mistake, and that will send me off in a new direction."

"I started off in the direction of prickly things when I was in my last year at Mass College of Art. It all comes from one idea I had for a box with a secret compartment that would contain a pearl.

The box would be shaped like a sea urchin, made of silver. In order to open the box and reveal the secret compartment, you'd have to pull on one of the urchin's spines. The idea was something beautiful, sculptural, but that you wouldn't necessarily want to touch, and that also held a secret treasure. I never developed the small-metals skills to ever make the box, but it got me thinking about that kind of form. I started experimenting with different materials to make urchin forms. I found that nails, pushed through window screen, worked well, and I could use many different types and textures and colors of nails."

Jennifer was born in Johannesburg, South Africa. She received a BA in Fine Arts from Wellesley College of Art in 1981 and her BFA in 1997 from the Massachusetts College of Art.



### Word Search

E E Y B O V N L V W B Y J W L  
R R K M J N I E K E E V N G M  
I I U G L C R K F I A D J I U  
K P N T N I S U G Y D J Y G T  
U S R E X S Y C X A I Y Q B I  
A N P Y T E M D U C N A Q X A  
S I C O H U T Z N L G A E D I  
E L O P X O M G F A P R M Z W  
K U L L K I E O O F I T F V T  
R B O U S U R C H I N L U N O  
U J R T N M K D I G X S S R K  
U E A M P P G I P J O X U C E  
P K Y L K C I R P K W R T N D  
E X P E R I M E N T M A Z Y Q  
Z A F U T D A A H C Q V C F S

BEADING  
COLOR  
EXPERIMENT  
FORM  
IDEA  
INSPIRE  
MISTAKE  
NAILS  
PENCIL  
PRICKLY  
SCULPTURE  
TEXTURE  
TINY  
URCHIN

### Do you share a birthday with any of these famous artists?

Jan. 12, Singer, 1856  
Jan. 19, Cezanne, 1839  
Jan. 23, Manet, 1832  
Jan. 26, Pollock, 1912  
Feb. 3, Rockwell, 1894  
Feb. 13, Wood, 1891  
Feb. 19, Brancusi, 1876  
Feb. 24, Homer, 1836  
Feb. 25, Renoir, 1841

You can have your birthday party at Jackie's Art IDEA Studio – lots of project choices, now pottery is available for parties, too!

### PENCIL TRIVIA

- 'Pencil' derives from "pencilus", Latin for small, pointed brush.
- Today's recipe: dried, ground graphite mixed with clay and water, fired in a kiln. More clay > harder pencil. More graphite > softer pencil.
- Wood casings: red cedar or pine.
- Regular black pencils: 19 degrees of hardness and intensity (blackness).
- Colored pencils: 72 colors.
- Before rubber, bread crumbs were used as erasers.
- A typical pencil can draw a line 35 miles long.
- A typical pencil can write 45,000 words.
- Most US pencils are sold with erasers. Most European pencils are sold without erasers.
- Raw rubber, although bouncy and sticky, makes bad erasers because it rots.

## PENCIL TIMELINE

- 1564: Graphite, a form of carbon, was discovered in England.
- 1770: An English engineer is credited with creating the 1<sup>st</sup> eraser
- 1795: N.J. Conte successfully produced the first modern pencil.
- 1839: Charles Goodyear discovered a way to cure rubber and make it long lasting.
- 1858: 1<sup>st</sup> patent for pencil erasers was issued. It was later revoked because it was merely a combination of two existing things, not a new invention.
- 1861: 1<sup>st</sup> pencil factory in the US opened by Eberhard Faber in NYC.
- 1897: 1<sup>st</sup> pencil sharpener patented by John Lee Love.



Valerie

### Make yourself a 'pencil chart'...

You will need:

Various art pencils – choose some that are labeled B, H and F, with different numbers. For example, get a 2B, a 4B and an 8B, with a 2H and an HB, and a 'woodless' 4B. Paper and a ruler

### What to do:

- Use your ruler to make 1" squares – one for each pencil that you have.
- Fill in each square using one pencil – press hard to see how dark the pencil will go. Beside the square label it with the type pencil you used.
- Make a series of curvy lines and label those, too.
- Make one more series of lines, rub those with your finger to see how much they will smear and blend out. Label those, too.

Keep your chart for reference when you are drawing. Some pencils are great for shading, others are great for fine details. Remember "B" pencils are usually very black, "H" pencils are hard, "HB" are hard and black, "HH" are very hard and "F" sharpen to a fine point...so HHBBB would be very hard and very black! Go to [www.pencils.com](http://www.pencils.com) for more fun information!

**SIGN UP for Sunday workshops** – one each month through May. (Workshops for ages 4 through gr. 7.) Pottery classes available for elementary, middle and high school and adults. More information and sign up at [www.jackiesart.com](http://www.jackiesart.com). Or call Jackie at 701-775-8424.

### ARTrivia answers for last month:

1. English artist Andy Brown created a portrait of Queen Elizabeth II of Britain by stitching together 1,000 used tea bags. TRUE
2. Picasso could draw before he could walk; and his first word was the Spanish word for mother. FALSE – his first word was pencil
3. The first pencil was invented in England in 1100. FALSE 1565
4. In 1961 Georges Braque was the first living artist to have his work exhibited in the Louvre. TRUE
5. Genghis Khan forever impacted Easter porcelain by introducing the Chinese to cobalt blue, which he carried from Iran. TRUE
6. Missionaries shared the secret of pink with the Chinese. They fired lead to a certain temperature until it turned pink. FALSE – they fired gold until it turned pink.
7. Paul Soldner invented the scissors. FALSE – Leonardo da Vinci invented the scissors.

### Word Search (issue #8)

#### Score yourself on the ARTrivia questions from newsletter #8

- 6-7 correct: EXTREMELY art smart
- 4-5 correct: VERY art smart
- 2-3 correct: AVERAGE art smart
- 0-1 correct: Keep trying!

Would you like to be included? Receive notice on upcoming classes, web site changes, and have first chance to register. Send your name and email address to Jackie at [jmuthus@yahoo.com](mailto:jmuthus@yahoo.com).

E	Y	L	V	Q	N	F	G	H	C	C	K	L	S	F
O	C	A	W	F	V	T	L	O	O	U	Z	Y	M	Y
E	K	I	L	A	R	X	A	R	A	Y	O	X	X	B
O	A	T	T	C	H	A	Z	N	S	R	C	M	M	X
J	G	O	V	C	R	N	E	T	O	E	U	N	W	D
W	A	T	E	R	A	S	U	D	R	T	S	G	S	E
I	S	C	I	M	A	R	E	C	V	T	T	P	U	R
E	H	C	N	I	P	S	P	N	S	O	X	Q	W	I
O	A	Z	M	M	B	E	L	C	O	P	S	Z	U	F
B	H	R	W	Y	I	F	O	A	G	I	W	L	H	G
K	Q	U	T	L	X	R	J	F	B	U	Z	G	J	C
A	J	V	S	H	E	C	O	I	L	U	B	F	L	O
W	M	W	Y	C	X	L	E	B	O	K	T	G	K	K
Y	W	C	H	X	Q	W	S	O	W	W	V	D	Y	T
H	S	M	I	F	H	U	O	D	S	H	B	B	F	K

Over, Down, Direction  
 BISQUE (10, 11, NE)  
 CERAMICS (9, 7, W)  
 CLAY (5, 4, NW)  
 COIL (7, 12, E)  
 EARTH (1, 8, SE)  
 FIRE (15, 9, N)  
 GLAZE (8, 1, S)  
 PINCH (6, 8, W)  
 POTTERY (11, 9, N)  
 PRACTICE (8, 8, NW)  
 SCORE (10, 8, SW)  
 SLAB (7, 8, SE)  
 SLIP (4, 12, NE)  
 WATER (1, 6, E)