

# 2. I AM HERE

## Flags/Hand Portraits



### Purpose of Project:

Hands are one of the oldest and immediate forms of artistic expression that says “I am here.” Creating and displaying these pieces is a **beautiful** and **powerful** statement of presence for our artists to see every day in the classroom or outside the window. They are simple to create and absolutely stunning. Visual beauty is vital to see in our world and ourselves. It is a reflection of our inner being. By stating clearly that “I am here” it promotes that each artist belongs here and is seen.

### Process:

1. Tape all the way around edge of the cloth onto desk or board to make it the most secure. It is easier to draw with pastels if the cloth is stabilized.

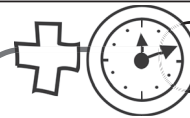
### GUIDE ARTISTS IN THE FOLLOWING STEPS:

2. Place hand in center of square and trace closely around it with oil pastel. (Fig. 2)
3. Decorate your hand portrait as desired. Use favorite colors, decorations, and images of things you love.
4. When portrait is complete, draw a border and write “I am here” and your name. (Fig. 3)
5. Remove tape.
6. Staple the tops of the cloth squares along the ribbon like flags hanging down. (Fig. 4)
7. Hang in classroom or outside of a window in view of classroom. This can be done as a class or solely by the educator.



*Teacher Tips: Pastels can get on desks if project is taped to desk. It cleans off, but to avoid more work use an Art Board or piece of cardboard for a work space. Refer to Ch. 7, pg. 98 for more about Art Boards.*

*Rip the cloth instead of cutting as this often ensures a straight line. Measure the 9x9 grid and make a small cut with scissors at the top then grab either side of cut and rip cloth, shown in Fig. 1.*



### PREP

- Purchase 2 yards of black cloth
- Measure out a 9x9 grid
- Cut/rip cloth into 32-9x9 squares (Fig. 1)
- 30 -10 x 12 Art boards to tape cloth down to (if you choose)



### MATERIALS

- Black cotton cloth, ripped or cut into approx. 9x9 inch squares, (at least one per artist)
- Scissors (only for your prep)
- Heavy cotton ribbon
- Stapler & Staples
- Masking tape
- Desk top or art board (per artist)
- Oil pastels



### BOOKS

*No specific book for this project.*

*Recommend downloading images from the internet to show students:*

*Pre-historic hands painted on rocks and in caves.*

# I AM HERE Step-by-Step



Fig. 1



Fig. 2



Fig. 3



Fig. 4



Fig. 5

## Classroom Notes:

What I learned from doing the project myself:

What did or didn't work in the classroom:

How I would change or modify the project:

Inspirations, new ideas & directions, other projects: