

Howdy, fellow makers of things! Let's draw together.

Tape art as described in this book is rooted in the joy of large-scale collaborative drawing. For more than 30 years the Tape Art Crew has been pioneering the use of tape as a drawing medium in public spaces, creating massive temporary images on buildings all over the world. The breakthroughs in the tape industry that allowed this art form to evolve have come from the rise of intentionally low-adhesive tapes designed to be removed from walls with ease. Very few tapes in the global market are actually suitable for the purposes of drawing and all the techniques in this book are grounded in the use of PiktoTape, which the Tape Art Crew has used for over two decades and has proven itself a brilliant medium to make art with.

Throughout this book the application of this tape to draw is referred to as the PiktoTape Method. This denotes an experience and approach unique to this medium and encourages the participant to explore its benefits. This method of application is rooted in using the power of many people simultaneously to create magnificently large art directly on the walls of their institutions. This form of tape art is remarkably inclusive for the first time practitioner and the majority of results in this book are from people using the PiktoTape Method for the very first time.





Why the PiktoTape Method?

Collaborate

The PiktoTape Method calls for true collaboration. Students practice brainstorming ideas as a group and moving toward aspirational results without firmly premeditated designs. Students can take on many different roles within a mural and gain confidence through the process of creating art in a social group. The PiktoTape Method rewards students for taking risks and responding to each other and the artwork in real time.

Reach a Wide Range of Learning Styles

As a medium, PiktoTape allows artists to explore art solutions that range from classical rendering to texture and pattern-making to sculptural object-making to conceptual, spatial installation. The variety of applications provides three advantages in the art classroom: (1) students well-versed in the language of art-making can continue to engage with challenging art experiences; (2) students who may normally not connect with traditional media like drawing and painting can find an interest in the change of scale or 3D solutions; and (3) the best art results come from groups with diverse experience, interest, and ability.

The Tape Art Crew has worked with more than 50,000 first-time tape artists in institutions that cater to students of all abilities. Our work in special education, psychiatric hospitals, and correctional facilities continues to emphasize the accessibility of the medium and the advantages of making art together.

Change the Scale

For many students, this will be the first time they create art larger than a traditional canvas. Not only are they making artwork that is bigger than themselves, but they are making it in unison with their entire class. The wall-consuming scale of PiktoTape murals demands innovative solutions and invites students to explore proportions and details with a fresh perspective.

Impact the Entire School Community

The PiktoTape Method results in sprawling artworks that can consume entire schools. One of the most common reactions to PiktoTape workshops is, "Wow, I did not realize it would be this big." These works transform the built environment for the entire school community. The effect is one of creating a sense of place and a collective memory for students, teachers, administrators, and community members who visit.

Make Art Out in the Community

The temporary nature of this medium means that there are many opportunities for students to do tape art in public spaces. Making art for others can remind students that art serves a wide range of purposes. Some of our favorite projects working with students have been ones that conclude with students drawing for community members they might rarely interact with at senior centers, hospitals, and homeless shelters. These are moving experiences for all involved.

