

# SCROLL

Inspired by Carl White's exhibition *I Dreamed A Universe!*, create a visual heart-felt letter to someone you don't know.

## What is a Scroll?

A scroll (from the Old French escroe or escroue), is a roll of papyrus, parchment, or paper containing writing. The history of scrolls dates to ancient Egypt. In most ancient literate cultures scrolls were the earliest format for longer documents written in ink or paint on a flexible background, preceding bound books.

## What is Process Art?

Process art is an artistic movement where the end product of art and craft, the work of art, is not the principal focus; the process of its making is one of the most relevant aspects if not the most important one. Process artists saw art as pure human expression. Process art defends the idea that the process of creating the work of art can be an art piece itself.

this moment was all  
this moment  
was  
enough  
~Carl White

## What is Calligraphy?

Carl White enjoys writing personal letters using his artistic skill of calligraphic writing. Calligraphy (from Greek: καλλιγραφία) is a visual art related to writing. It is the design and execution of lettering with a pen, ink brush, or other writing instrument. However, as a contemporary art form, calligraphic writing can be defined as "the art of giving form to signs in an expressive, harmonious, and skillful manner."

Extra materials for you to find, if you wish:

- Old Book Page, Magazine or Musical Note Page, Scrap Paper
- Glue stick
- Scissors
- Coffee, Tea, Fruit Juice (something to stain the paper)
- An unusual writing tool you enjoy making marks with.

## INSTRUCTIONS:

**Step 1:** Look at Carl White's Artwork called *Love Letters*. He created several hundred of them on paper he found in his grandmother's attic, with the intention to share them with Gallery visitors, people he doesn't personally know. He wrote them from a place in his heart and his belief that he loves everyone including strangers (see video - 27:44 minutes).

**Step 2:** Look at Carl White's artwork called *This Moment*. Then, choose a sheet of paper you have available or one of the sheets included in your activity kit. This art activity kit is meant to create a resource of supplies for you to create your "mini studio".

While not all of us have the immediate skill to write a letter by hand as beautiful as calligraphy artists know how to, we can all create a visual letter reaching out to a stranger from a heart-felt generosity and kindness with the hope that the recipient may be open to feel the love you wished to genuinely give.



*Love Letters* by Carl White



*This Moment* by Carl White

**Step 3:** Feel free to glue down some of the gold leaf flakes onto different areas of the sheet of paper, perhaps distributing them in different areas of your paper. Then, start staining the page with any of your materials that can make a mark on your page. Try dragging a used and still wet tea bag on your surface, or brush coffee or juice on your visual letter and let the paper dry. Carl White works in layers and takes a lot of time creating his marks on his papers and he doesn't mind if in the end the paper even rips, or has wrinkles, that is all part of the process for him.



**Step 4:** Then, if you wish, using any of the oil pastels in your kit, create a movement of an ocean wave in your visual letter. The idea is to focus on what that movement of an ocean wave feels and looks like to you. What kind of speed does it have? Is it slow, is it fast? Carl White sees the image of an ocean wave as a perfect metaphor for change (see video - 9:33 minutes). Play around with the marks oil pastels can make. Explore blending the oil pastel colours. Add more tissue papers and other textures as they suit your artwork.



**Step 5:** Once you have created your visual movement, and making sure your oil pastel area is thick enough on the surface, we suggest scraping words or other images using the wooden skewer sticks or tooth pick through the oil pastel image you created. How would you like the person who is seeing the visual letter to feel? It is your choice, when you feel the visual letter is complete and what purpose you will give it in the end. Perhaps you wish to give it to a neighbour you don't know or hang it in your home?

If you would like to share your heart-felt letter with the community, you can mail it to the Art Gallery of Grande Prairie, 103, 9839-103 Avenue, Grande Prairie, Alberta, T8V 6M7. Alternatively, we have placed a basket on a table in front of the Art Gallery labelled "Visual Letters". We will be hanging up the "Visual Letters" in the common area of the Montrose Cultural Centre. That way, we will be creating a large community letter to let each other know that we care about and love each other.

Find Carl White's *Meet the Artist* Virtual Tour & Exhibition Walkthrough on our website.

**Enjoy This Process and Happy Creating!**

Cut along line and use in your piece if you like.

