

Now let's take a closer look
at the OMA Art Design
Evaluation ("OMAADE")



1

Criteria #1

Initial hook is inspiring.

Will the visual appeal of the project motivate the elders to participate?

A hook is something apparent in the project image or inspiration that will interest the elders sufficiently to get them to come to the OMA session and to engage in the project.



2

Criteria #2 – Double Points

Activity is suitable for all abilities.

Can everyone succeed because the project doesn't privilege cognition or motor skills?

Is there potential for the elder to experience "Flow" (a match between abilities & activity demands)?

A final project completed by someone with full cognition would be virtually indistinguishable from a piece created by someone with dementia.



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Criteria #3 – Double Points

Activity allows for individual creative self-expression.

Is individual self-expression promoted by the project?
Are there a variety of potential choices in art materials and in the amount and placement of materials on the page so that each project created is unique and different?



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Criteria #4

Activity is **suitable for all genders.**

Are the **materials used** appealing to a wide variety of individuals? Beware of “craft materials” like ribbon and flowers, that have potential gender association



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Criteria #5

Activity will take **adequate time to do** (not too long nor too short).

You want a project that will take you **~30-40 minutes** to complete because remember that OMA artists often work slowly & will need more time.

By using multiple layers (often 3 layers) each of those layers can take from **5-10 minutes per layer** to complete.



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Criteria #6

Adequate choices are built into activity.

Are there sufficient opportunities for creative/**aesthetic (artistic) decisions** to be made by the artist?

Think about every layer having choices in color, texture, shape, etc. to result in a wide variety of final products.

You want the artist to say “That one is mine!” because it is unique & different from the other artists’ work.



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Criteria #7 – Double Points

Activity is **FUN to do.**

Is the **process of creating** the piece enjoyable? OMA intentionally awards 10 points to FUN because it is so important! Nothing beat a smile!



8

Criteria #8

Activity has a **surprise element** built into the process.

This as a **“reveal”** (when yarn, or strips of tape that have been used to “mask” or cover a portion of a lower layer are removed and color(s) from the lower layer are exposed or when translucent tissue paper is laid over another layer and the colors visually blend or when a print tool is lifted and a new color or pattern is magically revealed. In the video, this is called **the “ooh..ah!”**

When we add a mat to a piece it is another reveal experience. It is also fun to rotate the piece to view it from 4 different perspectives. Sometimes it looks very different vertically or upside down!



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Criteria #9 – Double Points

Activity has adequate **LAYERS** of **processes**.

The process of layering a **2-4 easy-to-do layers** results in a complex piece of abstract art. For example, a base layer painted with watercolors, followed by a middle layer using another medium like a different paint, dye, ink, tissue paper, rice paper, foil, etc. And that might be followed by a top layer of iridescent or metallic paint, small pieces of metallic tape or fine glitter.



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Criteria #10

Materials needed are easily obtained or made (Preparation is not too difficult or time consuming).

Think about what we discussed earlier. Be on the lookout for art tools that **cost nothing or are very inexpensive** items at the Dollar Store for stamping, making patterns, adding texture to a piece. You’ll combine these creative discoveries with the use of fabulous **artist-grade art supplies**.



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Criteria #11

Materials can easily be distributed.

It’s always important to think about **packing, organizing, distributing and removing supplies** used for each layer.

The organization, distribution and clearing of the materials **supports the artists’ independence** at each level.



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Criteria #12 – Double Points



The end product is appealing.

Is it potentially worthy of being matted and framed?

Even though the process of art-making is extremely important in OMA, your goal is also that every artist be proud of their finished product.



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Criteria #13

Sharing of finished work at the end of the session is not difficult.

You may want to consider using cafeteria trays to make holding up a piece of matted work easier to share with the other elders.

And matboard frames turn an art project into a finished piece of art! Small plastic bumpers on the underside of mats or plastic sleeves keep the mats from becoming soiled by paint that is still wet.



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Criteria #14

Transportation and storage of finished work is not difficult.

The video showed how they use the clothespin octopus for drying pieces of art. You can use other laundry supplies hanging systems. There are also cafeteria tray caddies and large professional size cake pans that work well to efficiently stack and/or store layers of pieces as they dry or for transportation.



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Criteria #15

Set up and clean up is straightforward.

You don't want the clean up process to be too difficult or time consuming.

Clean up can be done as you go along by the leaders and/or the "waitstaff" volunteers when they are available.



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