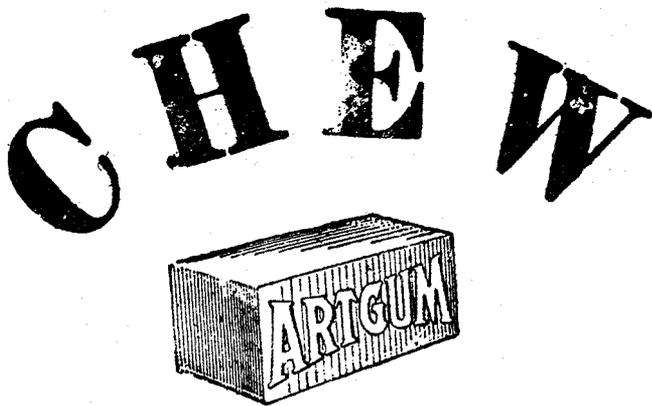


# STAMP UNTIL YOU FEEL GUILTY

I got turned on to rubber stamping about a year ago, and I have lots to learn, but I wanted to share some things I found out with anyone who wants it.

If you want to make stamps from clip art or your own drawings, write to a stamp company or talk to a local one in person. Find out the size of stamp material they use, so you can determine how to lay it out for photocopying. You can cram images next to each other any way they will fit, leaving just enough room to cut them out. You can mount them on blocks of wood yourself, or have the company do it for you.

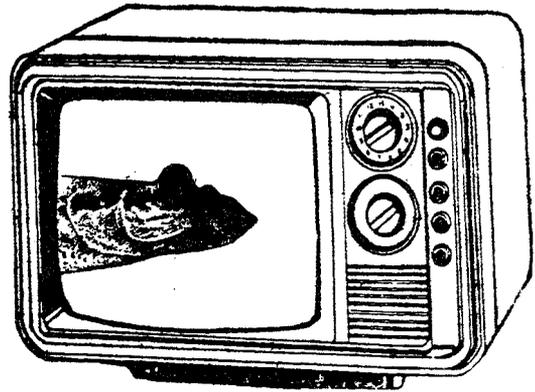
I like to go to stamp companies and beg to go through the boxes of scrap stamps. Don't be put off by an underling (nothing personal to any underlings who may read this), but I once was told by the nice lady behind the counter that they didn't save stamps that were obsolete or mistakes. Turns out she had hardly ever left her typewriter. I met the owner later when doing a rubber stamp-collage show. He took me into the shop and turned me loose. It took me three days to go through the scrap boxes, because they saved everything they goofed up on or that which customers did not pick up. I got some of my best stamps that way. If you aren't afraid of a little sifting, it's great. I have since found it best to take samples of my work straight to the owner in order to get permission.



Another stamping activity I like is to combine words (which is 98% of what you will find in scrap barrels) and combine them with pictures (98% of what is in rubber stamp catalogs). It's terrific for me to play a sort of verbal head-collage game. For instance, I had this cowboy stamp from Rubber Brothers that I liked because I could animate the art by repeated stampings of the arm portion (placing a piece of scrap paper over the rest). Then I took a simple NO WAIVER stamp from my scrap findings and combined the two.

Everybody has a favorite stamp company. I like Bizzaro, because they are so cheap and friendly. The ink in a bottle with a brush on the lid is the best for applying ink to a pad (as opposed to roll-ons or glug-glugging it in heavy spots. Plus the brush technique wastes less ink.

Some stamps like the T.V. set from Bizzaro have empty places. You can use these by stamping once, then take a pair of fingernail-size scissors and cut out the empty space. This is, in effect, your template. Now stamp the image on your good paper. Finally align your template over the first image. Stamping into the T.V. screen (in this case) can be done with your selecting exactly what goes into the empty space.



I am one of the few stampers in Indiana. If you have ideas you want to share, please address them to me. I give stamping workshops in Indiana and will show your innovative samples to college students.

Oh, yes, and this may be too obvious to mention at all. But I will anyway. Many times in conversation or mulling around in my head, I will come up with a phrase or expression I like, such as SUPPORT EASY ART. I jot these down as soon as I can and when I get a check in the mail from an art sale (it does happen!), I take my list of words or phrases to a stamp company for an order. No matter how good you are at scrounging and picking goodies from catalogs, there is a special delight in turning your personal pet phrase into stampings.

VIA U.S. SNAIL

Support Easy Art



MIGHT BE ART



That's all I can think of right now. Bye. Stamp till you feel guilty!

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