

The History of Artist Trading Cards

How long has Artist Trading Cards been Around?

For less than a decade or so, but their history can be traced back to Mail Art and the Fluxus movements of the 1960's. In 1996, the concept of Artist Trading Cards truly began to develop. With the use of internet, social networking, and e-mail, Artist Trading Card art have really taken off and are created all around the world.

Who is credited with the concept of Artist Trading Cards?

In 1996 M. Vānci Stirnemann, a Swiss artist, first developed the concept of Artist Trading Cards. He was actively working with other artists and wanted to find a way to document his involvement by creating a catalogue of 1,200 cards created by his hand. In May of 1997, he exhibited the cards at his bookstore gallery. At the closing reception for his exhibition, he invited anyone who wanted a card to create their own to be traded.

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