



Coastal Arts

Books, Beach Boys and Bling

Around the world, people travel countless miles to go to the ocean to relax, enjoy the beauty and to have fun. Luckily, many talented people have shared their memories and love of the ocean through their art, music and literature. Be it stories, songs, jewelry, fabrics, photographs of other art forms, it is easy for everyone to enjoy the ocean when they cannot visit it.

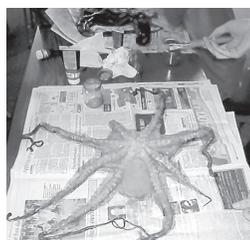
Art is one of the most common ways people share their enjoyment of the ocean with others. Many artists show their creativity by making ocean designs on clothing, oil paintings, drawings and even on surfboards. Fish printing or gyotaku (pronounced guy-oh-ta-koo) is a type of art that first became popular in Japan. Fishermen would make a print of their fish to prove what size and what kind of animal they had caught. Now this process is used to make beautiful artwork to decorate homes or offices. We, the Big Blue Reporters, printed scallops shells and octopus. We made our prints on paper, but you can make t-shirts too. It is great fun!

Other artists make models of ships. Making these models is very time consuming; it takes a very experienced and patient artist to construct a ship in such detail. Model ships can be made from wood, but some of the older ones were made from bone. You can see these types of models and other works of art locally at the Maritime Museum at Channel Islands and Santa Barbara Harbors.

Fish/Shell Printing In 9 Easy Steps

1. Prepare your fish/shell for printing. Clean and dry it.
2. Place your fish/shell on a newspaper covered table.
3. Position your fish/shell. Make sure to spread out the fins of the fish.
4. Brush ink onto the fish/shell.
5. Place printing paper over the fish/shell.
6. Slowly rub/press the paper down on the fish/shell.
7. Gently remove the paper from the fish/shell.
8. Add finishing touches, like painting in the fish eye by hand.
9. Admire your print!

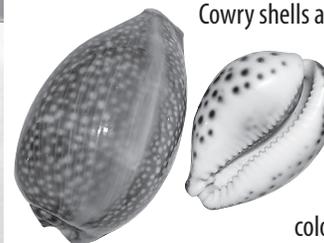
Visit www.natureprintingsociety.info/gyotaku_deweese.pdf for more detailed directions.



Big Blue Reporters create octopus and sea shell prints.



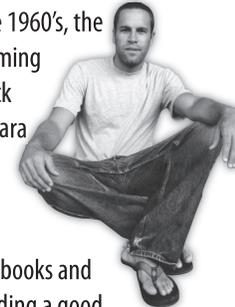
Many people enjoy looking at sea shells and using them for artwork. Oyster shells are very eye-catching. They have beautiful markings that show the growth patterns of the oyster. Another good-looking shell is the chestnut cowry.



Cowry shells are known as "love shells" because the scientific Latin name means "Aphrodite" – the goddess of love.

This shell is really smooth and shiny with a chestnut colored top and white rim. The Chumash used abalone shells to decorate their tomols (canoes) and to make beautiful jewelry. Today, many people buy shells to make jewelry, for arts and crafts projects and to decorate homes – a reminder of some of the treasures that come from the ocean. And, many of these people sell their creations, earning money while doing something they love to do!

The ocean has also inspired music and literature. The Chumash and Polynesians are two groups that sing about the ocean. These songs tell stories and are a record of events happening among them. In the 1960's, the Beach Boys became popular for performing songs about the surf culture. Today, Jack Johnson, a graduate of U.C. Santa Barbara and previously a professional surfer, is popular for his 'surf vibe' music.



The ocean has also been the subject of books and movies for all ages over the years. Reading a good book about the ocean or watching a movie, such as "Finding Nemo" is a relaxing way to spend an evening. Maybe you can write your own story about the ocean! You might even become famous!

As you can see, the ocean is an important part of many cultures, can be experienced in many different ways, and gives us many fun hobbies and art forms that can turn into a career.