



DAMARISCOTTA PUMPKINFEST & REGATTA

STREET-ART PUMPKINS – TIPS FOR PAINTING/CARVING THE GIANTS

Welcome to the world of giant pumpkin artists!! It is a creative and humor-filled group. What follows are some tips intended to make your work easier based on shared past experiences by our collective group of return pumpkin artists who paint & decorate and carve the giant pumpkins for Damariscotta Pumpkinfest:

PREPARING YOUR PUMPKIN DESIGN

- Plan your pumpkin design and any associated exterior decorations well ahead of the scheduled day of painting or carving.
- It is not required, but artists are free to create design schemes that correspond with the sponsor's business. If you elect to create your pumpkin design with respect to the sponsor's business, feel free to discuss your ideas and plans with the sponsor.
- The simplest design can be the best design.
- Artists may add smaller sized pumpkins to enhance the design scheme of the giant pumpkin.
- Be timely. On the day scheduled for painting and carving, artists should arrive on time at their assigned pumpkin location. Artists have only one day to begin and complete their pumpkin painting/carving projects.

PREPARING THE PUMPKIN FOR PAINTING AND CARVING

- The pumpkin may have dirt on it from the field. Use a cloth to wipe the pumpkin clean and remove any external dirt or debris.
- If the pumpkin is damp or wet from rain, wipe the pumpkin with dry cloths to ensure that the pumpkin's surface is dry before beginning any application. Paint will not adhere to a damp pumpkin surface.
- For pumpkin painting, apply a clear coat sealant before beginning to paint. The clear sealant may be a spray-on application, or a brush-on application. These products may be found at the hardware store. Allow the sealant to dry completely before proceeding with painting.

- Pumpkins will weep when they are cut with a knife or a carving tool. Allow the pumpkin to complete the weeping process before applying the sealant or paint.

PAINTING THE PUMPKIN

- Use old brushes, large and small. House painting brushes are good, too.
- Begin painting after the clear coat sealant application has completely dried, and the pumpkin's weeping has ceased if the pumpkin has been cut for the design.
- Cheap acrylic paints are the best paints to use for adherence to the pumpkin and for quickest drying. If damp, towel-off the pumpkin so it is entirely dry before applying paint, or the paint won't adhere. For large surfaces (i.e., turning a green gourd into a white snowman), acrylic house paint will do the trick. Inexpensive or student grade paints are perfect. One of the cheaper brands available may be found at Salt Bay Art Supply; ***Amsterdam Acrylic***.
- While painting or carving your pumpkin, you will be approached and encouraged by many well-wishing pedestrians and onlookers. Be aware of the time loss from your project while visiting with the well-wishers. These encounters will distract from your over-all available time to complete the project in one day.
- Leave enough time for your paint to dry thoroughly in-between layers, to make the entire process easier.
- Apply a clear coat sealant over your finished pumpkin design. This application will allow the painted pumpkin to last longer before rotting becomes aggressive.

APPLYING ADD-ON DECORATIONS TO PAINTED OR CARVED PUMPKINS

- Some pumpkin artists will add cut-outs, decorations, assorted objects, etc., to the giant pumpkin. **REMEMBER:** Your pumpkin will be subject to wind and weather, as well as pedestrian and vehicle traffic. Be prepared with replacement add-ons.
- Many artists use glue. The hot glue gun substances will not work for the sidewalk pumpkin art that is exposed 24/7 to the out of doors environment. Use glue that is waterproof, a construction-adhesive type of glue.
- When installing add-ons to the pumpkin, use reinforcements or wooden dowel rods to help support the add-on. Ensure that the add-on is securely attached to the reinforcements or dowel rods.
- Remember to bring some of the following items to assist your work: a small step ladder, buckets, a stool for sitting, a tent, tarp or umbrella if rain appears, and any other items that you may anticipate as being needed to complete the project away from home or a studio.
- **SAFETY** is a must. Ensure safety in the space surrounding the entire pumpkin design area. This is particularly important when installing additional smaller pumpkins or add-on decorations. The surrounding area of

the pumpkin covers more space on the sidewalk, and the reduced walkway area may impede pedestrians.

CLEAN-UP AT PUMPKIN LOCATION

- Artists are responsible for clean-up at their pumpkin locations. Bring water, trash bags, rags and paper towels for clean-up. Remember that the pumpkin painting or carving is conducted outdoors on the sidewalks without the comforts of a studio environment.

GENERAL TIPS

- Painted pumpkins last longer than carved pumpkins. As mentioned above, application of a clear coat sealant after completing the painted design or the carved design will assist in preservation of the artwork. Carved pumpkins begin deteriorating sooner than the painted pumpkins. The use of clear coat sealant will help to defer the rotting process for carved pumpkins.
- Design schemes for pumpkin painting and carving have unlimited possibilities. Some artists are inspired by the pumpkin's shape, others by a children's book or movie, or favorite animals. In the way of inspiration, pictures of past art pumpkins may be found on the Pumpkinfest web site: www.damariscottapumpkinfest.com under the Pumpkin Art tab OR on google-plus at: <https://plus.google.com/110776828289499124015> .

OUR VOLUNTEER ARTISTS - IMPORTANT DATES - 2017 PUMPKINFEST

- **Tuesday, 03 October 2017** – Artists are encouraged to view their assigned pumpkins at Pinkham's Plantation, 431 Biscay Road, Damariscotta, ME. Use tape (duct tape) to mark the surface area of your pumpkin that you envision as the area where you will paint or carve your main design theme. Some pumpkins may have a bad side for theme design or carving. Use your artistic vision to select & mark with tape the best area of the pumpkin for YOUR design.
- **Thursday, 05 October 2017** – Giant Pumpkin Deployment to the sponsor locations in Damariscotta and Newcastle. Pumpkins will be positioned with the artists' selection for the main design theme facing oncoming traffic.
- **Friday, 06 October 2017** – Giant Pumpkin Painting and Carving by the Volunteer Artists. Artists' projects must be completed no later than 12:00 pm on Saturday, 07 October. The PUMPKINFEST Parade begins at 2:15 pm.

Damariscotta Pumpkinfest & Regatta™

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