

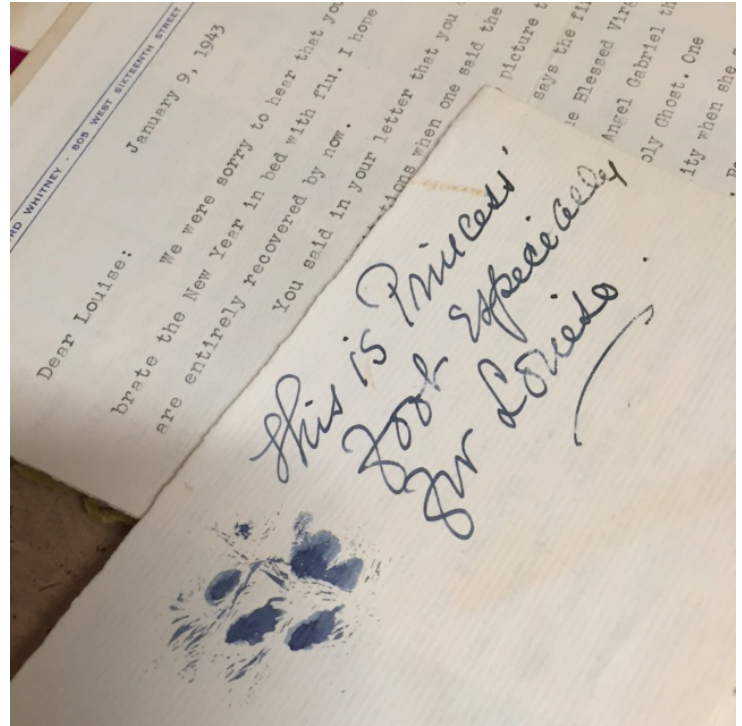
Fingerprint Stamps Activity

Take inspiration from JANM’s collection to channel creativity from your fingertips into memorable stamp arts.

Collection Connection

During World War II, Japanese American families on the West Coast were forcibly removed from their homes. They could only take with them what they could carry. One of the hardest things to leave behind were their beloved pets. Not only did the owners miss their pets — but the pets missed their owners, too! Sometimes, kind neighbors would agree to care for the animals for the duration of the war. This image is an excerpt of a letter sent from Princess the cat, waving hello from Upland, CA, to her owner, Louise, who was incarcerated with her family in Poston.

Japanese American National Museum. Fukuda and Whitney Families Papers. 2008.16



Now it's your turn!

Not only can a paw or fingerprint be artistic and fun, but it can also capture a memory — like a handprint laid in fresh cement. Either by using a stamp pad, or by coloring the tips of your fingers with washable marker — experiment with finger and thumb print art. Consenting human fingers work best! Once the ink has dried bring the stamped prints to life with scribbles and decorations.

Share your creations with us on social media using the hashtag **#JANMinspired**