

Carnival Masks of Venice

Starting in the 13th century, Venetian masks were used to protect the wearer's identity. The people of Venice felt their freedom of expression was restricted. Behind the masks, anyone could take on a different identity. The masks freed the people from being recognized, and let them express freely their opinions on important matters anonymously. People wore the masks from December 26th (St. Stephen's Day) to Shrove Tuesday (Fat Tuesday).

By the 1700's Italy fell to Napoleon and became governed under Austrian rule. The masks were prohibited to wear. For almost 200 years Carnevale was stopped.

In 1979, local Venetian artists revived the long tradition of Carnevale and mask wearing. Eight days before lent, tourists come from all over the world to take part in period pageants, concerts, balls, and of course to wear a mask.

Make Your Own Venetian Mask



Supplies:

- Pre-formed masks found at craft store
- Acrylic Paint
- Feathers
- Sequins
- Beads
- Glue

- Tape
- Scissors
- Paint Brushes

Before you begin to design your mask, take a moment to plan the entire thing out. What color(s) will your mask base be? Will you use feathers ? If so lay them out on the mask to see how many you might need and the layout you'll use. If you're planning on using sequins or beads do the same thing with those too.



1. Paint your mask base and let dry completely.
2. If using a second color of paint apply it now and let dry completely.
3. If using feathers, glue them into place and let dry completely. Usually one hour.
4. Add beads by gluing them into place. Let dry completely.

There isn't a right or wrong way to decorate your mask. As long as you're happy with it that's all that matters. Happy Carnevale.



