

Masterpieces of Art

Effect: You lay 3 cards on the table, yellow, red, & blue, & ask a spectator set a play bill on the card of her choice. You then reveal a prediction showing you knew which color she would choose!

Props: Small clear envelope containing 3 different color cards, play bill, and a folded cover card.

Secret: There are 3 different predictions, 1 for each color. You show only 1 of these predictions, based on which color was selected. If yellow is chosen, you ask the spectator to turn over the yellow card & read out loud what it says. (“You will choose yellow.”) The spectator (or you) turns over the other cards to show that their backs are blank.

If blue is chosen, ask the spectator to turn over the play bill & read out loud what it says. (“You will choose blue.”)

If red is chosen, have the spectator turn over the envelope and read out loud what it says (on the back of the cover sheet inside the envelope): You will choose red.

Tips:

- This is a great trick. Only do it once for the same audience.
- When you see which one they picked, state the color they picked and comment on it briefly. While you are talking, get the other items out of the way before revealing the prediction so they cannot look at everything & find your other predictions. I.e.
 - If they pick yellow & you’re going to show the backs of the cards, put the play bill in the envelope & the envelope in your pocket or case **before** they read the prediction.
 - If they pick blue & you’re going to have them read the back of the play bill, put the cards in the envelope & the envelope away **before** they read the prediction.
 - If they pick red & you’re going to have them read the back of the envelope cover, pocket the cards & play bill **before** they read the cover.

This way, after they read the prediction, they are stunned, and they cannot grab stuff to look at it because it’s out of their sight & grasp.

- Have the spectator think of 1 of the 3. Then using his finger, slide the bill to the art piece of her choice. Doing these 2 things minimizes the likelihood that the spectator will pick up & look at the bill, spotting the prediction.

Performance:

“Do you have any hobbies? What is your hobby? In my spare time I like to paint. In fact, I brought with me 3 of my recent works. Would you like to see them? (Pull out the 3 different color cards & the bill. Set out the 3 different color cards in a row on the table as you describe them. The bill is off to the side for the moment.) This is a yellow kite flying in front of the sun. An arial work. This is a blue whale swimming in the ocean. A seascape. And this is a farm scene. Do you know what it is? Apples in front of a red barn.

These paintings are obviously worth a great deal of money. Can you think of 1 of them that is perhaps your favorite. Don’t tell me what it is. Do you have 1 in mind? (yes) You get to start the bidding. Would you move the bill with your finger to the one you are thinking of.” (Spectator picks yellow, let’s say.)

“Ah, the yellow rendition of the kite in front of the sun. (As you are talking, put bill in envelope, and put envelope away.) You have excellent artistic tastes. Would you turn over the one you chose and read out loud what it says.” (You will choose this one.) (Give spectator a moment to turn the others over. If she doesn’t, invite her to do so.)

