

The Garden Gate Heart

Project Directions

Begin by preparing a clean workspace where you can shape the clay comfortably. Take a small portion of air dry clay and begin forming it into the shape of a heart. As you shape the heart, remember that this piece represents your life and the work God has been doing in the garden of your heart throughout this journey. Take a few quiet moments while shaping the clay to reflect on what God has been restoring and growing within you.

Once the heart shape is formed, set it gently on your work surface and begin creating the gate. Take another small portion of clay and roll it into thin strands that can form the shape of a gate or fence across the heart. Carefully place the clay strands across the front of the heart to form the gate structure. This gate represents the boundaries and discernment you have been learning during this month. Just as a garden gate protects what grows inside the garden, these boundaries protect the life God is cultivating within you.

If you would like the piece to be placed in a flower bed or planter, you may also shape a small extension at the bottom of the heart that will act like a stake so the piece can stand in the soil. If you prefer to place it among plants or on a garden stone, the heart can remain flat.

Allow the clay to air dry according to the instructions on the package. Drying time may take several hours or up to a full day depending on the thickness of the clay. Once the clay is completely dry, you can begin painting your piece. Many participants choose to paint the heart in soft reds or pinks while painting the gate in brown or natural wood tones to resemble a garden fence.

After the paint has fully dried, apply a clear sealer over the entire piece. The sealer protects the clay from moisture and weather so the piece can safely remain outdoors. This final step symbolizes how the heart must be guarded and protected as it continues to grow through the seasons.

Once sealed and dry, place your Garden Gate Heart in a flower bed, garden space, planter, or even an indoor plant. Each time you see it, let it remind you that the garden of your heart is something precious that God is tending and that the boundaries you are learning help protect what He is growing within you.