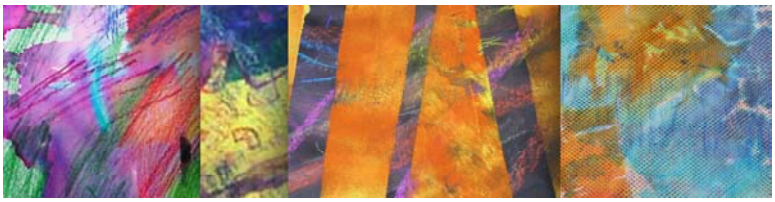


Painting tools, materials, and techniques for students and people with special needs can involve so many items. Consider the type of paint, the surface that will be painted, and the tools to apply and move the paint.

Quick Tips for Textural Paints:

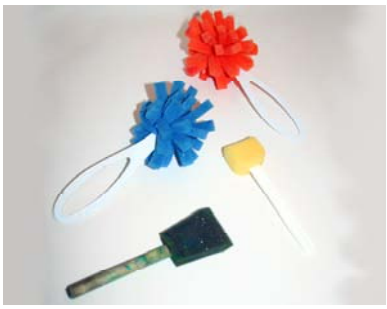
- Mud Paint

Make your own mud paint by mixing one-part sand to one-part acrylic paint. Keep in an airtight container. This paint will keep as long as the paint does not dry out.
Use this to paint on a thicker board such as mat board. Mat board also has nice textures. Use a stick or wooden dowel to apply the paint. The "brush" must be sturdy.

- Other textural paints include:
  - Acrylic paints
  - Glitter paint
  - Finger paint
  - Glossy paint like Jazz Gloss
  - Paste Paint (equal amounts of Ross art paste and acrylic paint) draw tools through the mixture
  - Puffy paint recipe
    1. Mix equal parts of flour, salt, and water in a bowl.
    2. Add liquid tempera paint for color
    3. Pour into a plastic squeeze bottle
    4. Squeeze mixture onto cardboard or heavy paper
    5. Mixture will harden in a puffy shape
    6. Colors will harden in a puffy shape
  - Colors will pool together without mixing

The paints listed above are appropriate for people and students who are blind or have visual impairments.

There are many types of paintbrushes that artists may use. For people with physical limitations I would recommend brushes that are made from sponges or brush handles that allow for paint.



Sponge brushes hold paint well and seem to be larger with less weight. Lightweight brushes will lessen hand fatigue. If the brush can hold paint there is less arm movement and again less muscle fatigue. Note: less paint is used if the sponge brush is dampened first.

Some brushes can be found in an art catalog, while others can be found in the grocery store or office supply store.

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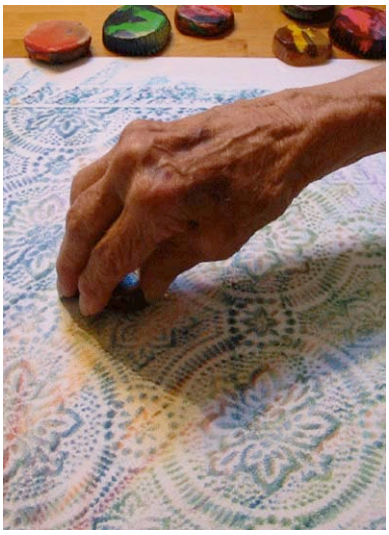
1. Painting Using Muff-N-Tin™ Crayons and Adapt-A-Cut®.

This artwork will take two work sessions to complete.

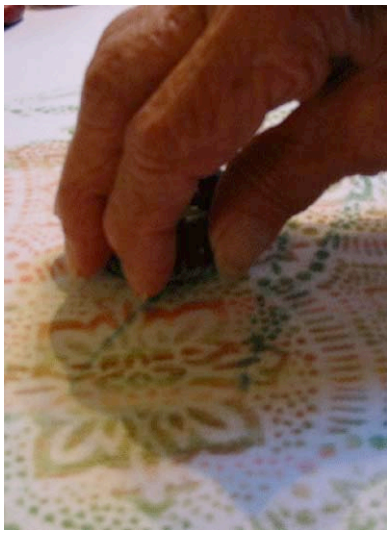
Day One. This artwork begins with a texture rubbing. There are many types of texture boards that can be used. In this work I have used textured wallpaper. It is very durable and comes in a variety of textural designs. Be sure to check out our Tools to Make Texture Boards for more ideas how to add more texture.

Place the texture under the paper and tape to the desk surface. To achieve a white border on the artwork I use tape. Usually I use masking tape, but I recently found that packaging tape would give a wider boarder.

For this artwork I have used Muff-N-Tin™ Crayons. Check out our Tools to Make pages to learn how to make your own Muff-N-Tin™ Crayons.



Some students will enjoy the sound that the crayon rubbing makes. The auditory feedback will motivate most students. Some will make a rhythmic song as they work.



Use a variety of crayon colors to color over the surface of the paper. Muff-N-Tin™. One motion with the crayon will produce several colors.

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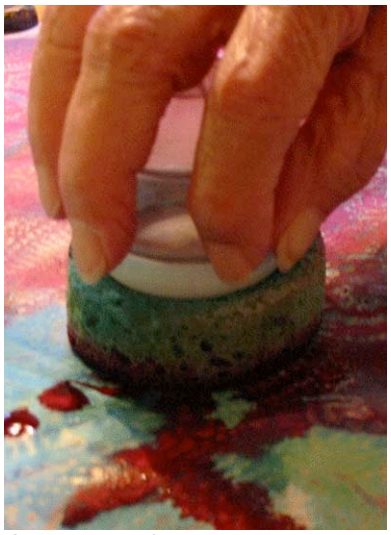
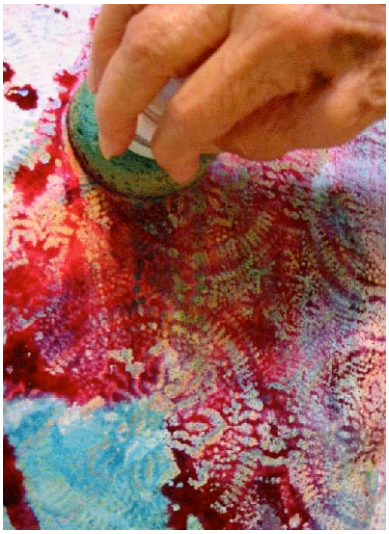
Over the top of the crayon rubbing have students use watercolor paint.

For this work I choose to use liquid watercolor paint. Allow students to choose colors. Sprinkle the color onto the paper and have students move the paint with their brush.

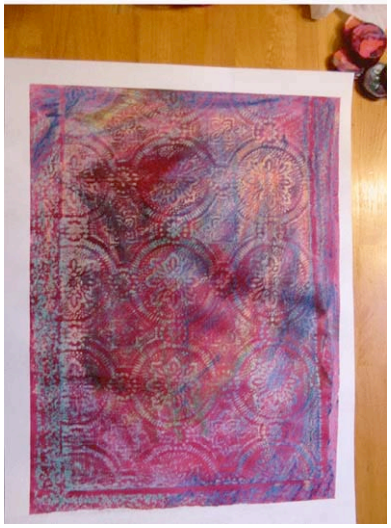


One type of brush that is easy to use is a dishpan sponge. Dampen the sponge first. The plastic top allows people to easily grasp the tool.



Have students continue to move the paint until all the puddles of paint are gone. Sometimes they will leave white areas and sometimes there will be only the white boarder.

Removing the tape while the painting is wet will result in tearing the paper. If you need to remove the paintings from the desk leave the tape on the painting. You then can stick the painting on a wall or cabinet door to dry. Remove the tape by pulling it back onto the paper. Keep the tape low. Some of the paper fibers may come up with the tape.



After the tape is removed the painting could be considered finished or you may continue to Day Two directions.

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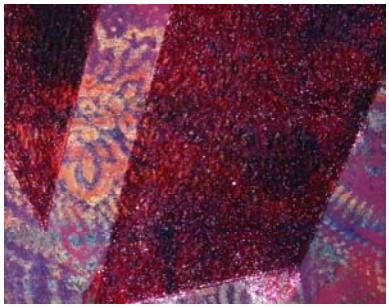
Day Two. Cut strips of paper or lightweight tag board. To cut the strips easily I choose to use Adapt-A-Cut®.

Arrange the strips and tape down. The arrangement could be random, pattern or for abstract symbols. Re-tape the margin in order to keep it white. Tape the strips into place.

The areas covered by the paper strips will remain the textured painting. The open areas will be painted over with tempera paint.



Tempera is thicker and more opaque, so the paper strips will resist it. Students can apply the paint using a brayer to roll. Any other brush may push the paint under the paper strips.

The paper strips can be removed before the paint has dried. Be careful when removing the tape from the margin. This paper will be thinner and more apt to tear.

<u>Quick Tip for Painting:</u>

Tissue Paper Painting can be used for a tie-dye effect or as the first layer for artwork.

- dampen white paper with a spray bottle.
- Place tissue in an overlapping method
- Spray with water and push out any air bubbles
- Wash hands with soap and water to remover tissue dye
- Let work dry over night and then remove the tissue
- White areas appear where the tissue wasn't touching paper

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