

Galaxy Painting

By [Rachel Thompson](#)



In this table top activity, AccessArt team member Rachel uses a classic water colour technique to create a colourful galaxy scene.

You will need:

- Some large water colour paper (unfortunately standard cartridge paper is not absorbent enough for this activity!)
- Water colour paints, inks or food colouring
- Pippets and/or brushes
- Test tubes, jug and funnel (if you don't have test tubes then a standard paint pallet or a few pots work fine)
- A small sponge

- An ice cube tray or other colour mixing pots

To create a link between art and science, we used some equipment taken from a 'science kit' we have - namely, pippets, test tubes, a funnel and food colouring - but you can just as easily use paint brushes and water colour paint or inks. The advantage of pippets and funnels however, is that it creates a few more steps to the process, (therefore taking more time, keeping engagement up for more than twenty minutes!).



This activity uses a classic water colour technique of applying paint to a dampened piece of paper. The result is that the paint shows its lovely quality of travelling and swirling across the paper through the channels of wet paper. Young children love to see how colours can 'magically' merge together and create beautiful moving patterns.

Starter discussion: This is a great opportunity to combine a

bit of art with science! Take a look at photos or books of how our galaxy looks. Observe the colours and patterns and talk about where space is and how we learn about it. I did this activity with my five year old daughter and a few minutes discussing space galaxies definitely seemed to help her focus!

Then, we used the test tubes to mix our colours. This proved an engaging part of the process as we could use a small funnel and jug of water to first add some water into each tube, followed by some drops of food colouring. Inks or water colour paint work equally well here though.





Primary colours work well here as there's more scope for creating new colours.



Then, take a large sheet of water colour paper that is as absorbent as possible. Using a sponge or large brush, spread some water across the paper evenly. Try not to make it too wet at this stage or the paper will become too saturated once the colour is added.



Next, use pippets (or brushes) to drop colour onto the dampened paper - and wait for the magic to happen!







Create patterns with brushes and drop colour in between.



After a few minutes I introduced an old ice cube box that was useful for playing with colour mixing. I also got out a set of water colour paints to add variety.



Spending a few minutes dropping colour into each ice cube section was an activity in itself!

Once the paper has been covered with colour, and is probably getting to the point where it can't hold much more water, set it aside to dry. If little puddles of coloured water are pooling on the paper, show your child how they can extract this using the pipette. This is a great technique to learn and encourages the child to make decisions about their painting and where sometimes, less is more! You can also do this with a dry paint brush, making sure you squeeze or blot the fluid out of it each time.

Once the painting is dry we moved on to looking at some space books, so some context was given for the next part of the activity.



Then, using a range of drawing materials (my daughter mainly used simple colouring pencils as they have a lovely chalky quality over the top of dried water colour paper) draw your space picture! This is really an opportunity to let your child use their imagination and explore the composition of the page. Allow them to draw what comes to mind, only steering them towards discussions about space rather than dictating what they draw. My daughter was particularly drawn to a photo of an astronaut in the book we looked at and so wanted to re create that.

She began drawing some planets, some with rings around them.





Next came a rocket!



And then the astronaut, he she decided was a girl astronaut called Sally.



Depending on your child's attention span, this could take up half an hour or so - or even more! They may leave the picture and come back to it. Above all, keep it relaxed and open ended - and have fun!



You can see more of Rachel's resources [here](#).

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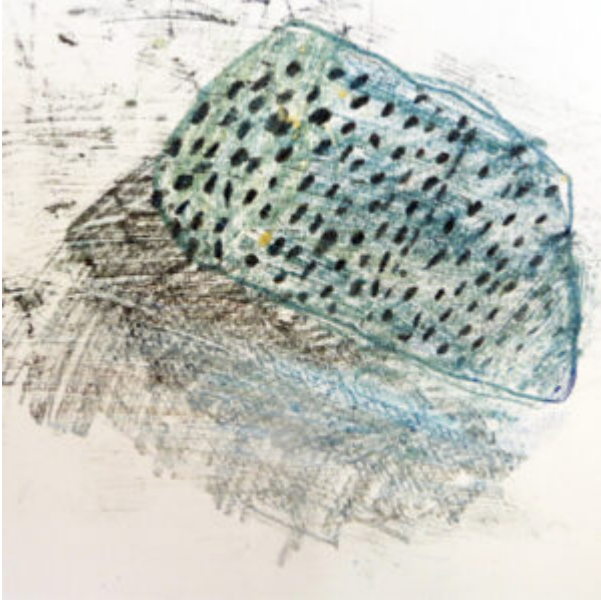
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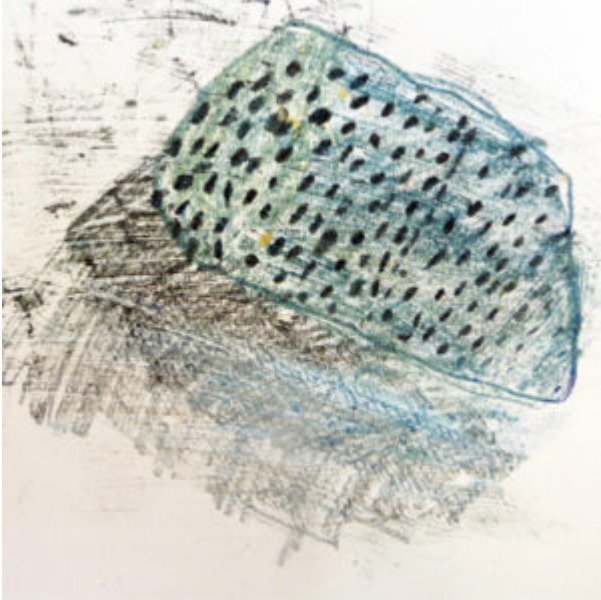


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Inspired! ‘The Tree’ by Year One and Two at Hauxton Primary School

In this post, Pamela Stewart shares the submission by Hauxton Primary School, Cambridgeshire for Inspire: A Celebration of Children's Art in Response to Jacopo del Sellaio's Cupid and Psyche by Year One and Two pupils in 'Owl Class'.

It shares the pupils' Inspire journey and all that they learned in response to looking at the Renaissance painting at the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge.

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Inspired by Paula's recent rousing film, 'It's in Our Hands', artist Jan Miller pulled images together from her own teaching to illustrate the things the children in her classroom do with their hands

Children's Community Project

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Cupid and Psyche: How a Fifteenth-Century Renaissance Panel Became the Most Loved Painting in Cambridgeshire

Sheila Ceccarelli tells the story of how Cupid and Psyche, painted by Jacopo Del Sellaio, an Italian Renaissance artist, came to become the most loved painting in Cambridgeshire. Inspire is an exhibition of art made by primary school children and celebrates the creativity of our local schools. It champions the on-going importance of cultural learning and the visual arts for children and young people. A chance also to see Del Sellaio's Cupid and Psyche on display next to the children's work.

Bubble Drawings

Pastel and Rubber Chiaroscuro Drawings

Wall Drawings with Tape

Classical Inks

Abstract Face – Relief Sculptures

In this construction and painting resource, students make an abstract face, relief sculpture from cardboard, adding colour, texture and metal findings. This resource was inspired by the work of Kimmy Cantrell, a self-taught contemporary artist who uses asymmetry to question long-established views around beauty.

Nib & Ink Mark Making Still Life

Many thanks to accessArt Young Artist
Rowan Briggs Smith



Young
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The Wildflower Meadow

Rachel Burch, Head of Art at Burton Hathow Preparatory School and her pupils explore simple drawing, collaging and painting techniques to create beautiful artworks inspired by a summer meadow.

Painting A Rainbow Forest

Rachel Burch, Head of Art at Burton Hathow Preparatory School and her pupils paint their own large scale, colourful forest inspired by AccessArt's resource 'Painting A Bluebell Forest'. Rachel shares her process in this resource.