

WORKSHOP 9

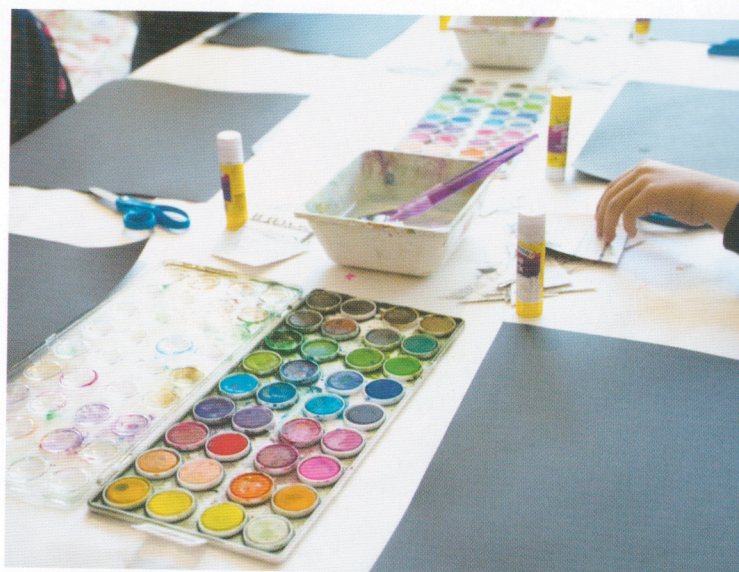
NEWSPAPER AND WATERCOLOR

This workshop developed out of a mistake in the Art Studio! I had just finished setting up a tray of liquid watercolor in little cups, resting on a stack of newspaper. In a whirlwind of getting things done, the liquid color spilled onto the dry, scratchy newspaper and the results were really interesting!

For such super easy materials and setup, the results are surprisingly cool looking. Wet meets dry, color meets black and white. Check out Workshop 5, chapter 3, Torn Newspaper Buildings, if you're starting to build a little unit of investigation.

TOOLS AND MATERIALS

- newspaper pieces
- scissors
- black construction paper for a work surface
- glue sticks
- watercolor pan palette or liquid watercolor in little jars or cups
- water bowls
- paintbrushes
- paper towels or rags for drying brushes
- chalk markers

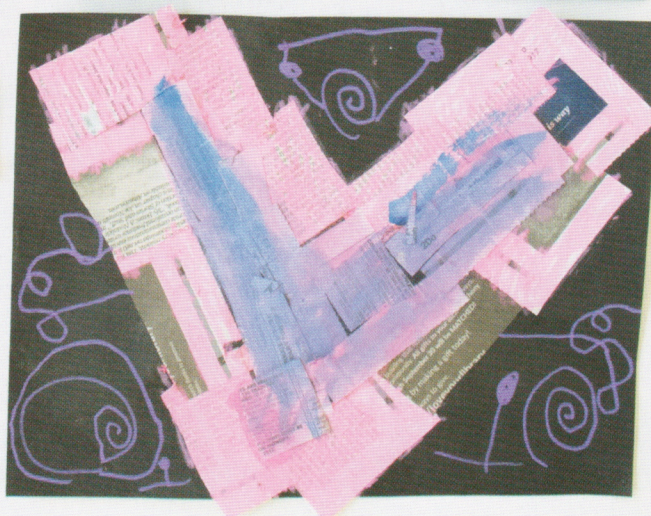




THE PROCESS

1. Set out the newspaper and scissors for everyone.
2. Invite the children to use the scissors to cut (or fingers to rip) the newspaper into shapes.
3. As the children work, ask them to think about how they might like to arrange the shapes on the black construction paper.
4. Offer glue sticks when kids are ready. I like to help kids focus on arranging and rearranging the shapes before offering glue.
5. Once the pieces have been glued down, offer the watercolor and chalk markers.
6. As kids experiment with the color, they'll find the chalk markers a bit more opaque and, well, chalky, while the watercolor softens the paper and is more transparent. A combination of the two materials is really striking!





Chalk markers aren't necessary here—chalk pastels or even sidewalk chalk would work perfectly!

FOLLOW-UP THOUGHTS

For this demonstration, I used the pan watercolors, but I really love liquid watercolors. If you're a little intimidated by them, don't be! They're super easy to use—just be sure to pour them (and some water to dilute) into little cups that have lids, so you can easily reuse. They are much more saturated than the pan watercolors, and they even come in neon and metallic versions!

OTHER IDEAS TO TRY

- To really experiment with wet and dry, offer kids a little spray bottle of water to spray their newspaper shapes before painting. What happens? Or offer little droppers or pipettes to squeeze and squirt the liquid watercolor onto the collage for a different effect.
- Try other kinds of markers on top of the newspaper collage.
- Try watercoloring your newspaper first in big sheets and then cut and collage.