
Art Masterpiece: *Convergence*, 1952 by Jackson Pollock

Keywords: Abstract
Expressionism, Action
Painting

Grade: Kindergarten

Activity: Marble Madness

Month: May



Meet The Artist:

- Jackson Pollock was born in Wyoming in 1912.
- He is best known for the huge paintings he made by splattering, throwing and dripping paint onto his canvas.
- To him, the important part of his art was how he did it. He liked to call his work **Action Painting**-He would tack his canvas to the floor and quickly walk around it while throwing, splattering and dripping his paint. A popular magazine (Time) nicknamed him "Jack the Dripper".
- He wanted people to see and feel the energy he used when he painted. His goal was to fill his paintings with movement, color and energy. Sometimes the paint created beautiful and colorful shapes, other times - there were no shapes at all. When a painting has no recognizable or natural objects in it, it is called **Abstract**. When abstract art represents a lot of emotions and feelings it is called **Abstract Expressionism**.
- Jackson died in a car accident in 1956. He was 44 years old.
- Today people still recognize his work and the original style he created.

Possible Questions

- How does this painting make you feel?
- What makes you feel that way? Do you think the artist felt that way?
- How many different colors do you see? How do the colors make you feel?
- Pick a line in the print-is it possible to follow it through the painting? Hard to tell where it starts, stops or starts again. Do you think Pollock planned out his art?

- Do you think Pollock used only a brush? What else would he paint with- where does it look that way?
- Why do you think he called his style of art action painting?

Activity: Marble Madness

***Note to Art Guide:** This activity should be done OUTSIDE so please check on weather and wind conditions...if this activity must be in the classroom, find an area of the room with enough space where a tarp can be spread out on the ground and have the students sit around the containers. Discuss with the teacher on best option.

Before the activity, tape all the edges of the paper down inside the box using the masking tape. This will give it a white frame when tape is carefully removed after the painting process. Prepare the paint containers by filling each with about a ½ inch of the paint and dropping about 9 marbles in each container. Also....have students wear their paint shirt!!

Explain Activity: Students will be making a painting in the style of Jackson Pollock by rolling painted marbles around in a box. The idea is to move around the box in a skillful manner. Remind the students that they will get paint on their hands so before they move onto another color, they will need to wipe them with a wet wipe.

Materials Needed: 9x12 heavy white paper, various sized marbles, red, yellow, blue, green, orange, purple and white paint, boxes big enough to hold the paper (lids from banker boxes or paper), containers for paint and marbles, masking tape, rubber gloves, wipes for clean-up (have a trash can near).

Process:

1. Have students put on their painting shirts.
2. Distribute the prepared boxes to each student (See Note to Art Guide above) and have them write their names in one of the corners with small type.
3. Have the paint/marble containers ready to go and placed in a line in the center of the area so all students have access to them. See note above.
4. With control and respect for each other, let students pull a marble out of one paint container of their choice and place it in their box. Give them about a **minute** or so to move their box so the marble rolls around and paints the paper. If they need more paint, have them replace the dry marble and grab another one. Try not to have the paint mix in the containers.

5. After a minute or so, have students wipe their hands and select another marble out of another paint container. Repeat process until they have used all colors. If they would like to revisit one of the colors, let them do so at the end.
6. Remind them to observe how the paint mixes with each other.

7. Photographs of Jackson Pollock and other Paintings





