

# Art Masterpiece: *Convergence*, 1952 by Jackson Pollock

**Keywords:** Abstract  
Expressionism,  
Action Painting  
**Grade:** Kindergarten  
**Activity:** Marble Madness  
**Month:** November



## 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 four corners of the paper down inside the box using the masking tape. Prepare the paint containers by filling each bowl with about a  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch of the paint, a slotted spoon, 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 if they get paint on their hands, they will need to wipe them with a wet wipe before they move onto another color.

**Materials Needed:** 9x12 heavy white paper; marbles; red, yellow, blue, green, orange, purple and white tempera paint; boxes big enough to hold the paper (such as lids from banker boxes or paper boxes); bowls for paint and marbles; masking tape; slotted spoons; art smocks; lots wipes for clean-up (have trash cans nearby); butcher paper for drying.

### 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 marbles out of one paint container using the slotted spoon and place it in their box. Give them about a minute or so to move their box so the marbles roll around and paint the paper. If they need more paint of the same color, they can remove the dry marbles (with their fingers) and place back into the appropriate paint bowl, swish it around to coat the marbles with paint and drop it in their box using the slotted spoon. Stress to the students that the paint should mix in their boxes and not the containers.

5. When ready to move to another color, replace the dry marbles into the appropriate paint bowl and using the slotted spoons, remove marbles out of another paint container.
6. Encourage them to observe how the paints mix with each other before they move onto a new color.
7. 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.
8. When they are satisfied, remove their piece from the box and allow drying on the butcher paper.