

Abstract Painting

Juniors (6-8 years)

What we're going to do:

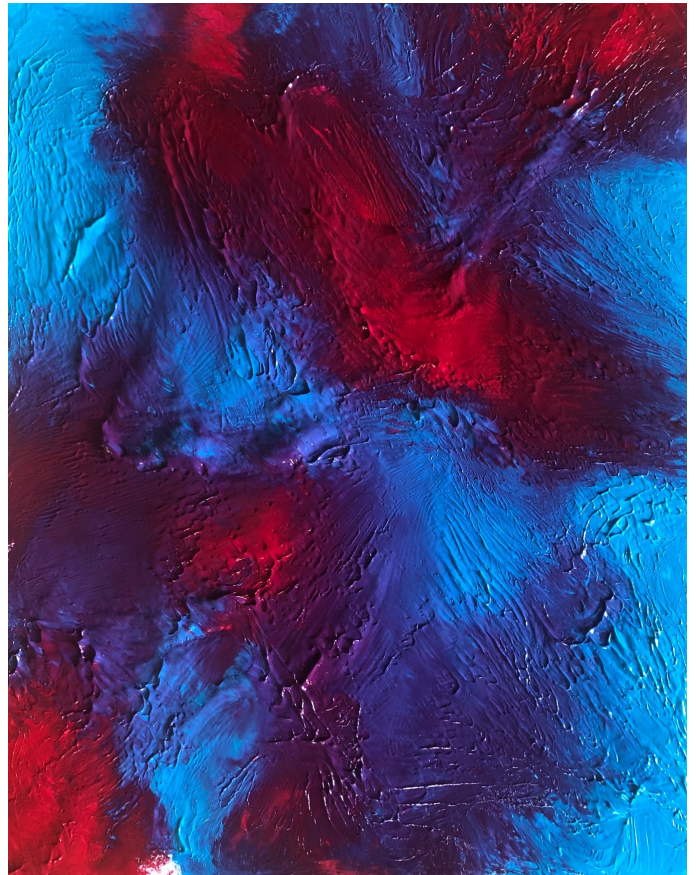
Use your imagination to create a colourful abstract painting with plastic and paint!

What you will need:

- painting paper
- acrylic or tempera paint
- plastic wrap or a plastic grocery bag
- paintbrush or pencil (only using the end of the handle)

What you can also use:

- watercolour paper
- coloured paper
- canvas



It's All Fun and Games!

In the spirit of fun and games you will have the opportunity to create a creative colourful abstract piece of art. What is abstract art? This is art that is created completely from your imagination – it doesn't have to look like something from the real world. Abstract art uses colour and shape to express feelings and thoughts. Dark colours may make you feel sad and bright colours could make you happy. Sharp lines could feel serious, whereas, curvy lines may appear playful.

For the project today you should think about the colours you want to use for your painting, will you use bright or dark colours, or a mix of both?



Above is a picture of an abstract painting called *Yellow Blue Red* 1925 created by a famous artist named Wassily Kandinsky. What kind of feelings do you have looking at this painting? What lines, shapes and colours are being used? Does it remind you of anything from the real world?



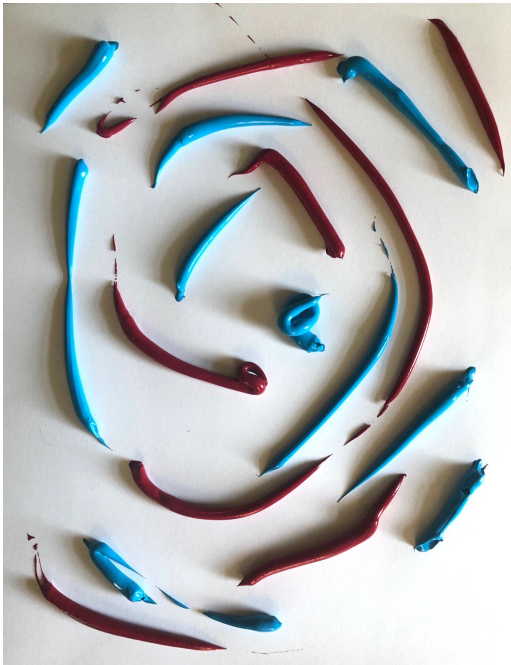
1

CHOOSE YOUR COLOURS

The first step in starting your abstract painting is choosing the colours you want to use. In the examples, two of the primary colours (red, blue and yellow) have been used. This way, it's easy to mix two colours to create a secondary colour (red+blue=purple, blue+yellow=green, yellow+red=orange). If you wish to work with more colours go ahead! Just make sure not to mix too many colours together as they will become muddy.

Now that you have your colours squeeze them directly out of the tube onto your paper in areas you want them to appear. If you don't have a squeeze tube use a paintbrush to apply a thick layer of paint onto the paper, work fairly quickly so the paint doesn't dry.

Tip: use multiple pieces of newspaper or drop cloth underneath the paper. This next step can be messy!



2

CHOOSE YOUR COLOURS

Now it's time for the fun part! Take a piece of plastic wrap or a plastic grocery bag that can completely cover your paper and lay it directly on top of your paint.

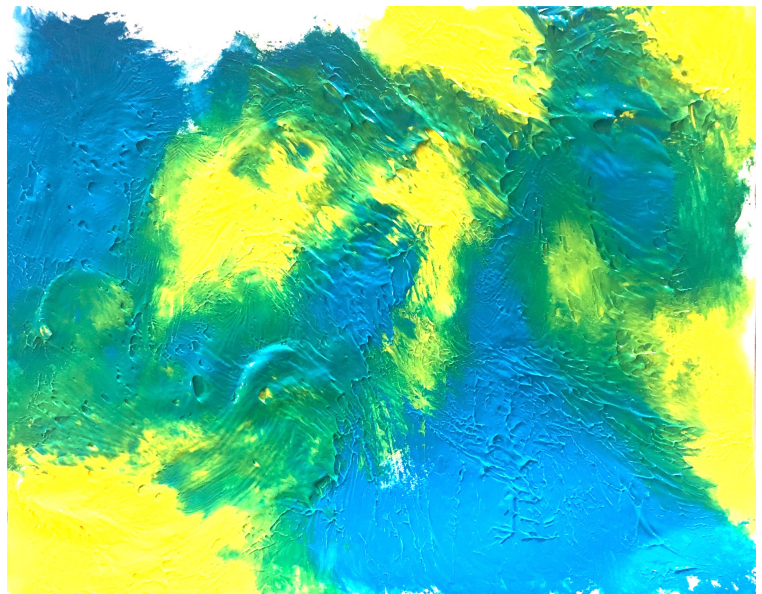
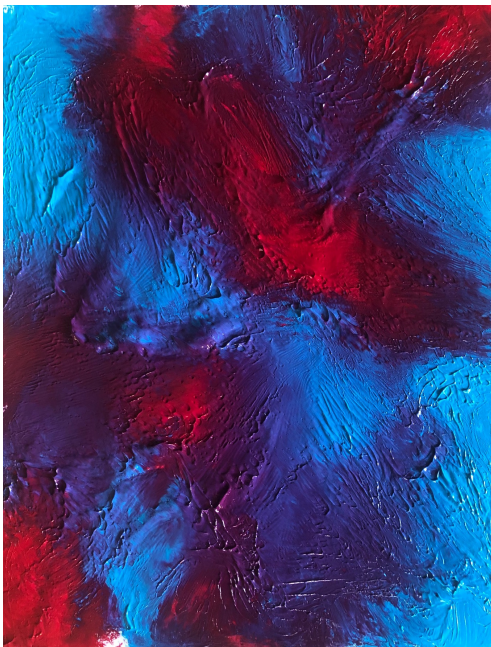
Using your hands on top of the plastic wrap or bag push the paint around so that it covers the entire space of paper. Try pushing colours together so they mix and create abstract shapes.



3

REMOVE THE PLASTIC

Now let's remove the plastic wrap. At this time you can decide after looking at your artwork if you want to add more paint to areas. If you want to add more paint, don't completely remove the plastic, just add more paint and lay the plastic back down to repeat the process. If you want to leave some areas of white on the paper feel free to do so.



4

ADD DETAIL

This step is optional, if you want to add some line work to your painting do it while the paint is still wet.

Using the end of your paintbrush or pencil draw on top of the surface of your painting. Experiment with creating curvy and straight lines and simple shapes like circles, squares and triangles.

Take a look at the effect the lines have on the overall painting!

When you are all finished move your painting on to another piece of newspaper to dry completely and prevent it from sticking.

