

## Galaxy Painting

Senior (9-12 years)

### What we are going to do:

Create a colourful galaxy painting using dabbing and stamping techniques.

### What you will need:

- Painting paper
- Paints – Acrylic or tempera
- Paper towel or sponge
- paintbrushes

### What you can also use:

- watercolour
- pastel
- canvas



## Infinity and Beyond – Outer Space



Photo: An enhanced image of galaxy clusters. Image via NASA/ Shutterstock.

Outer Space is a colourful and abstract subject to work with as an artist! A galaxy is made up of a system of stars, stellar remnants, interstellar gas, dust and dark matter. There are an estimated 2 trillion galaxies in our universe! Today we are going to create our own galaxy artwork using simple techniques. Choose your colours and let's get started.



Photo: An artist's impression of the Milky Way galaxy. Photograph: Chen Xiaodian

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## **DABBING TECHNIQUE**

The first step for your painting is to decide what colours you want to have in your galaxy scene. Include black, white and blue, but otherwise choose whatever colours you wish. Also think of the shape you want your galaxy to be; I chose a diagonal line.

Start with the lighter colours, and be sure to have the last colour you use be black. Using your sponge or a rolled up piece of paper towel dip the one end into the paint and start dabbing the paint onto the paper. Work through the colours to create the look you want.





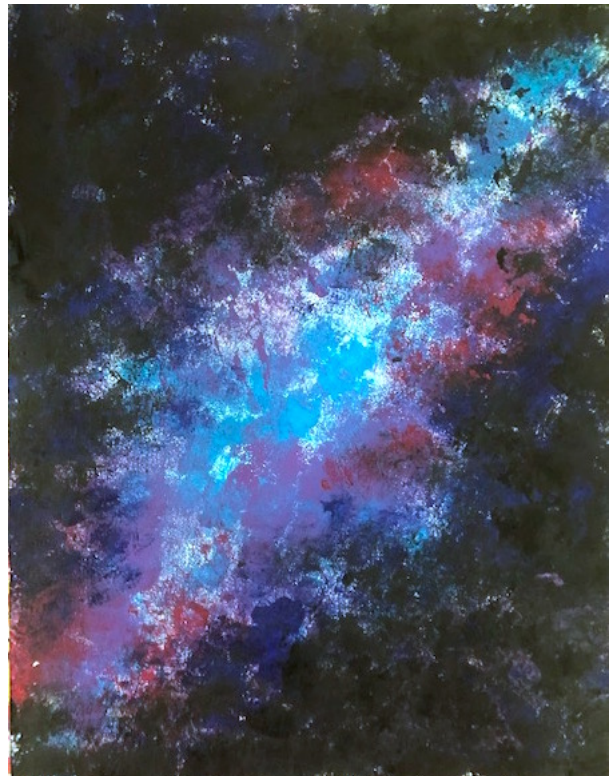
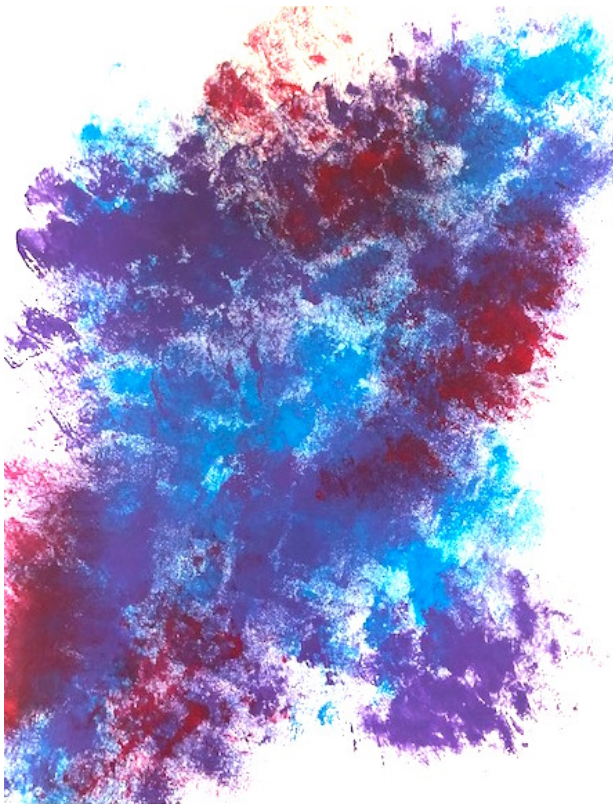
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## CONTINUE TO ADD COLOUR

Continue adding colour to your painting and feel free to overlap colours - it may create a mixing effect. Before your final step be sure you've added all the final colours.

Use black, and if you have it dark blue as the outside colour to really make your colourful area pop. Creating this contrast will make your design look like an actual galaxy scene.

Take a look below to see how I filled in the space with colour. If some white areas of the paper are showing that's okay because they will look like tiny stars.



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## STAMPING TECHNIQUE

Now you're ready for the final step! Let's create some stars using white paint. Take a small thin paintbrush or the end of your paintbrush and dip it in white paint, then stamp it onto your painting where you want your stars to appear. Add as little or as many stars as you wish. Tip: try to have the dots vary in size so it appears more realistic.

Take a look at the finished product and another example on the next page.



